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CHERNENKO MESSAGE TO THATCHER

Arms talks briefing at Chequers

MRS THATCHER was given details of Russia's attitude towards next month's U.S.-Soviet missile negotiations in a personal message from President Chernenko yesterday.

Mr Chernenko's message was read out at a three-hour meeting at Chequers by Mr Gorbachev, the Kremlin's No. 2. The Prime Minister was clearly pleased with the results of the meeting, says OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT.

She is to brief President Reagan on the Chequers meeting next Saturday after a round-world diplomatic trip, starting today, which will take her to Peking for the signing of the agreement for the return of Hongkong to Hongkong itself, and then to Washington.

The importance Russia attaches to Mr Gorbachev's visit to Britain was shown last night when Russian television devoted five minutes of its news to it. Pravda said Mr Gorbachev was visiting Britain "with goodwill and good intentions."

Peking prepares-P4

Gorbachev's fine start

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

A PERSONAL message from President Chernenko to Mrs Thatcher, setting out the Soviet attitude towards next month's U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva on missile negotiations, was read to the Prime Minister at Chequers yesterday by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, who is regarded as ranking next to Mr Chernenko in the Kremlin.

No details of the message's contents were given, but British sources said it outlined Soviet attitudes to Anglo-Soviet relations as well as to Western relations generally, with particular reference to arms negotiations.

Mrs Thatcher said she would reply in detail to President Chernenko. The Prime Minister ended yesterday's talks clearly extremely pleased with the results, which were atmospheric rather than substantive. She was described as feeling that an excellent start had been made to an important week in diplomacy.

Sincerity of West emphasised

Backed up by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, she emphasised repeatedly the sincerity of the West, particularly the United States, in wanting an end to the arms race and a reduction in the level of arms based on a balanced and verifiable agreement.

With Mr Gorbachev at Chequers were Mr Leonid Zamiatin, head of the Central Committee's International Information Department, and Evgeny Yakovlev, who is regarded as an expert on space weaponry. Mr Gorbachev clearly made a favourable impression on the British side.

He was described as a very

Concern over tension

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

THE London visit by Mr Gorbachev received a solid five minutes coverage on the Russian television news last night and on Saturday.

Pravda also carried details, saying he was visiting Britain "with goodwill and good intentions." Television viewers last night heard a summary of the talks between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachev, reporting that he delivered a personal message from President Chernenko.

Talks warning According to the Tass news agency, the message "emphasised that the establishment of a certain mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and Britain, and their attitude to matters aimed at lessening the threat of a nuclear war and at strengthening European and international security, acquire large importance in the international situation that has now taken shape."

Tass said: "Both sides expressed concern over the



THATCHER TO BRIEF REAGAN

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

MR SHULTZ, the U.S. Secretary of State, has returned to Washington to report to President Reagan on his talks with Nato allies to Europe and begin the internal debate over American strategy at next month's Geneva arms negotiations.

Because of a deep split between Mr Shultz and the Pentagon, Mr Reagan is not expected to decide finally how to proceed with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko until a few days before the meeting of January 7.

As part of his decision-making, Mr Reagan will also listen to the advice from Mrs Thatcher next Saturday. She will give him a first-hand account of her meeting with the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Reagan's key decision is how flexible America should be over a ban on space weapons development and anti-satellite weapons testing.

Space warning

Mrs Thatcher has warned of the dangers of an arms race in space.

The Pentagon wants to offer Moscow no new concessions in Geneva, but simply to resume arms limitations negotiations where the Russians broke them off last year.

The State Department favours the idea of suspending the testing of anti-satellite weapons in order to break the east-west deadlock and get "umbrella" negotiations going on all aspects of arms control.

BUCKS FIZZ MAN IMPROVING

Mike Nolan, 30, the Bucks fencer injured in a crash last Tuesday, is improving, is now breathing on his own and has been taken off a life support machine at Newcastle upon Tyne General Hospital.

The group's publicity agent, Mr Nick Massey, said yesterday: "There has been no deterioration in his condition since the operation to remove a blood clot from his brain and that is a hopeful sign. He is, however, still unconscious and his condition remains critical."

FRAUD CASE BRITON HELD

By OUR New York Staff

A 50-year-old Briton wanted by Scotland Yard for breaking bail in a credit card swindling case has been arrested by the FBI in a motel near Los Angeles.

William Terrell was said by the FBI to be facing 20 charges in a British court over his role in an alleged \$125,000 fraud. He has been charged with being a fugitive from another country and is likely to face deportation proceedings soon.

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Mrs Thatcher overcoming the language barrier when she asked Mr Gorbachev to change places with his wife Raisa for a photograph at Chequers yesterday.

'Special needs' aid may be cut

By FRANCES WILLIAMS Economics Correspondent

DRASTIC simplification of the supplementary benefits system, which could mean the abolition of special additions for heating and other needs in favour of a higher basic benefit, is expected to be recommended in the Government's social security reviews, now nearing completion.

Ministers are determined to reduce the complexity of the present system, which they believe means that many claimants go without benefits to which they are entitled. But they accept that reforms will entail some rough justice.

Many pensioners, together with the sick and disabled, who are now able to claim the biggest additions for special needs, will be worse off because the increase in the basic benefit will not be enough to offset the loss.

Officials are considering whether to incorporate the lower heating addition of £2-10 a week into the basic supplementary benefit rate.

The lower addition now goes to well over one-third of those on supplementary benefit, including the over-65s and families with pre-school children.

People not receiving additions will gain from the move. But the one-in-eight of claimants—about half a million people—now receiving higher additions for heating and other special needs, could lose £5 a week or more.

Means-tested benefit

Other reforms under consideration in the four reviews, which are expected to go to the Prime Minister in late January or early February in time for action in the Budget, include a big increase in child benefit, coupled with means-testing for more affluent families; payment of family income supplement for poor working families through the tax system; and withdrawal of benefits from youngsters who refuse a Government training place.

The Cabinet Minister responsible for jobs, Lord Young, also favours cuts in young people's benefits.

His own review of employment prospects for youngsters is expected to be sent to Mrs Thatcher at the same time. The Social Services Secretary, Mr Fowler, has set four targets: simplification of the benefits system; more efficient targeting of benefits to those in need; the promotion of employment; and the encouragement of self-help.

RACE YACHT CAPSIZES

The French trimaran Medecins Sans Frontieres capsized yesterday during the Transatlantic Columbus route race.

The United States coast guard plane spotted four of its five crew on the yacht's hull and a Japanese vessel was on its way to rescue them. The vessel was lying seventh about 1,500 miles from the finish in Santo Domingo—Renter.

WOMAN GETS KEY MoD JOB

By Maj-Gen Edward Fursdon Defence Correspondent

THE Defence Ministry is to have its own "Think Tank," to be headed by a woman.

Miss Gloria Franklin, newly promoted to the Civil Service rank of assistant secretary—equivalent to a brigadier—brings wide experience to the post.

She was secretary to the Government's report on censorship last year, and was on loan to the Foreign Office Planning Staff—its "Think Tank"—from 1979 to 1981.

The new division, to be called Secretariat—Policy Studies, will officially open for business on Jan. 2 as part of the new centralised Defence Staff.

Important role

Its main tasks are to: Undertake long-term studies over a very wide field of defence matters.

Be responsible for the annual Defence White Paper. Take over prime responsibility for the Defence Ministry's contacts with the academic world, and institutions in institutions involved with security issues.

Draft major speeches and articles for Ministers and senior members of the Ministry.

"It's an exciting challenge," said Miss Franklin, who read Modern Languages at Oxford, "and we must show by what we do that we have an important role to play."

DAVIS CUP THREAT TO AMERICA

By OUR Sports Staff

The United States, trailing 2-0 after defeats for John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors by Henrik Sundstrom and Mats Wilander in Gothenburg yesterday, could lose the Davis Cup final against Sweden today on a default.

Wimbledon referee Alan Mills, who is in control of the match, said last night he is considering disqualifying Connors from the rest of the tie because of his obscene language at the match with Wilander.

If Connors is disqualified he would have to forfeit his reverse singles game against Sundstrom tomorrow and that would put Sweden 5-1 ahead in this best-of-five match contest. John Parsons—P18

TURKEY CHARGES

Four people will appear in court at Grimsby, Humberside, today, charged with offences arising from the alleged poisoning of turkeys at the town's Presto supermarket last week.

Today's Weather

General Summary: Sharp frontal trough will move from the W. LEWIS, S.E., G.N. S. E. ENGLAND, E. ANGLIA, MIDLANDS, CHANNEL ISLANDS: Rain, drier and brighter in afternoon. Wind S. veering W. moderate to fresh. Max 46F (8C).

S.W. ENGLAND, WALES: Rain clearing. Sunny intervals and showers. Wind veering W. fresh to strong. 46F (8C).

S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER: Wind S. veering W. force 5 or 6. Sea moderate or rough.

ENGLAND CHANNEL ISLANDS: Wind S.W. veering W. force 5 or 6. Sea moderate or rough.

ST GEORGE'S CHANNEL, IRLISH SEA: Wind W. or N.W. force 6-7 or 8. Sea very rough.

ORKNAY: Showers or longer outbreaks of rain. Becoming milder.

Weather maps—P18

Commons guest of MP defends IRA attacks

By A. J. McILROY and KENNETH CLARKE

A WOMAN convicted of terrorist offences in Ulster, who visited the Commons last month at the invitation of a Labour MP, said yesterday that the IRA was right to take its "struggle" to Britain.

Linda Quigley, 24, from Belfast, who went to the Commons on Nov. 28—about six weeks after the IRA bombing at the Grand Hotel, Brighton—said she supported the IRA's view that the British Government was a "legitimate target."

Miss Quigley denies that she is a member of the IRA, or of its political wing, Sinn Fein.

She has been campaigning for an end to strip searches at the women's prison in Armagh and has made frequent visits to Britain in that connection.

Yesterday she said she had collected "about three dozen signatures" on a petition, mostly from Labour MPs.

On her visit to the Commons she was accompanied by Gerard



Linda Quigley.

McLaughlin, who has been convicted of conspiracy to cause explosions. They were both subject to normal security checks.

The visit was made at the invitation of Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Left-wing MP for Islington North.

Leading Tory MPs expressed Continued on Back P. Col 6

£664m BAT BID FOR HAMBRO

By OUR City Staff

An agreed £664 million takeover bid—the second biggest in record—has been made for Hambro & Co. by BAT Industries, Britain's largest unit-linked life business, by BAT Industries, the world's biggest tobacco manufacturer.

Last January BAT won the biggest takeover battle ever seen in Britain when it bought Eagle Star for £368 million. City Report—P13

Vandals destroy world's stock of wonder drugs

That headline has not been on the front page—yet. Nevertheless, it's an accurate statement of what is happening, right now, in the Tropical Rain Forest.

40% of the world's drugs come from—or are derived from—wild sources. A quarter of all prescription drugs are biological in origin. One drug developed from the Rosy Periwinkle—a tropical plant—has given new hope to sufferers from leukaemia. Thanks to this healing plant their chances of recovery have soared since 1960 from one in five to four in five. Many other diseases have been successfully treated with drugs from wild tropical plants.

But, tragically, time is running out for the Tropical Rain Forests... one of the world's most important wildlife habitats—home of nearly half the Earth's species of plants, birds and animals.

Consumption of hard-woods from tropical forests in the last 30 years has soared by 1,500%. In the time it takes you to WWF

read this message, over 200 acres of tropical forest will have fallen to the axe. Unless we act now to save the forests, more than 1 million forest species could have vanished by the year 2000. Please help the World Wildlife Fund to save them from extinction by supporting our vital campaign to halt the destruction of the forests.

One of the most important ways of supporting our work is to remember the World Wildlife Fund-U.K. in your will—or send a gift of money. Better still—do both. Consult your solicitor or write to Derrick Hewitt for details.

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If you tell us you're mentioned in the World Wildlife Fund-U.K. in your will we'll see that your generosity is suitably acknowledged and we keep you informed about the progress of our life-saving work.

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Sir JAMES IN NEW 'GOLDEN' U.S. SORTIE

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in New York

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH, the mercurial British financier, has set Wall Street talking with his fourth multi-million-dollar sortie of the year against a major American corporation.

His latest adventure—involving a big forestry products concern—bears all the Goldsmith hallmarks of secret manoeuvring with big profits in prospect.



Sir James Goldsmith—million dollar sortie.

The tipsters and tycoons of the American business establishment are not yet sure just what Sir James is up to—but all are aware that everything he has touched on this side of the Atlantic this year turned rapidly to gold.

The unsuspecting target of the buccaneering British millionaire's latest attentions is the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, a 15-year-old San Francisco-based firm with vast forestry holdings.

It was a measure of Sir James's growing Wall Street reputation that when he was obliged by federal law last week to announce his intent to acquire more than 15 per cent of Crown Zellerbach's stock, shares shot up immediately to a record high for the year.

'Repel boarders'

But the prospect of a takeover bid did not impress the forestry firm's directors, who promptly ordered their lawyers to repel all would-be boarders. A man who courts publicity only when it suits him, Sir James has further titillated Wall Street by playing his cards throughout the episode close to his chest.

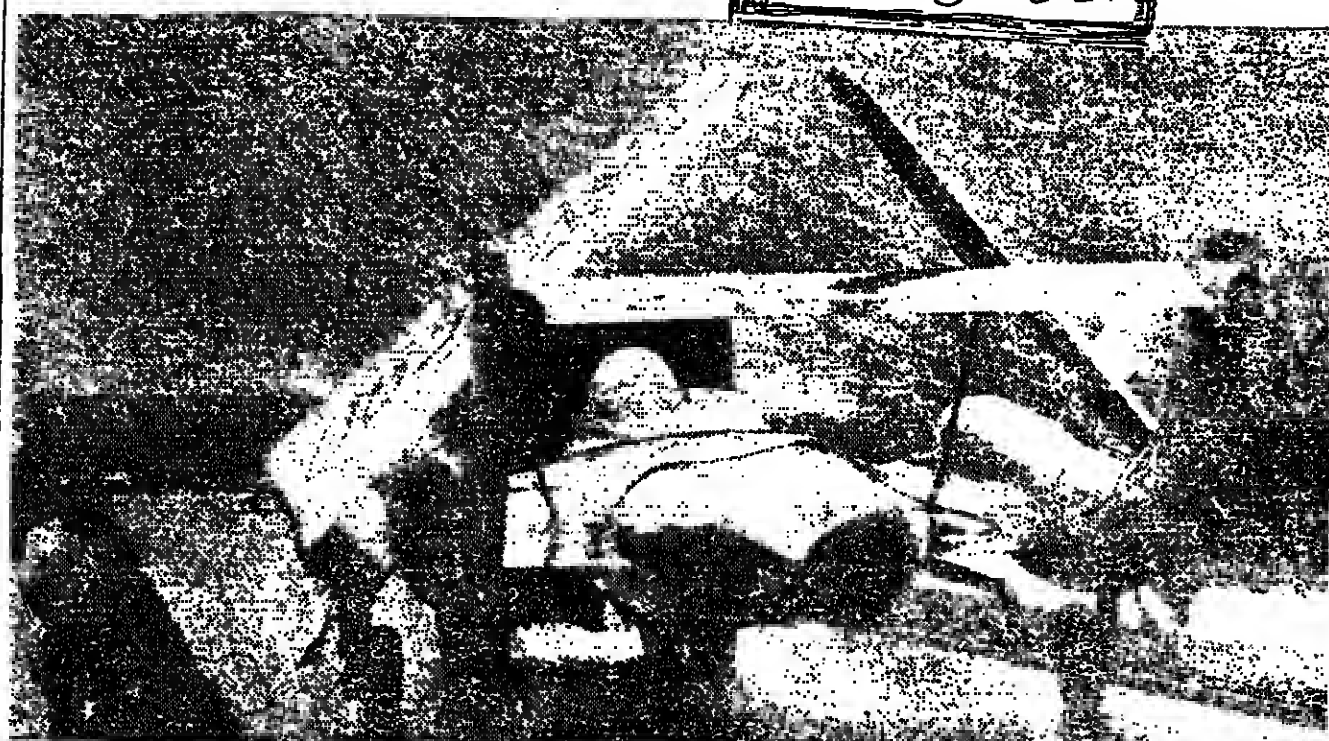
No one knows how many Crown Zellerbach shares he really owns, whether he really intends a full takeover bid, or if he is simply out for a quick profit from the jump in share prices.

But financial analysts recall that when Sir James bought up a chunk of shares in the St Regis Paper Products company last May, he sold out later for 50 million dollars profit (£42 million).

After that he took aim at Continental Group Inc., another company with forestry interests, and sold out there for \$35 million (£25 million) profit.

The practice of threatening a takeover bid in order to boost share prices for a quick profit is known as "greenmail". But Sir James has always taken offence if anyone called him a "greenmailer".

Although he profited handsomely from his investment in St Regis, he has said he regards the episode as a failure, because he did not take the company over.



A Sea Vixen jet fighter being towed along a dual carriageway at Christchurch, Dorset, yesterday to the former site of de Havilland's factory, where it will stand as a memorial to the town's aviation past. A local property developer raised funds to buy the aircraft after Mr Michael Chaplin, founder of the Sea Vixen Society, read of the connection in old aviation magazines.

Bulgaria caught shipping counterfeit whisky

By ROLAND GRIBBEN Business Correspondent

A BULGARIAN state trading company has been caught "red-handed" attempting to deliver a shipment of hogs Johnny Walker whisky to Africa.

The first shipment in a consignment of 2,500 cases of whisky was intercepted in Italy by Customs officials after being sent from Sofia via Greece to shipment from Trieste to Africa.

The Confederation of British

Industry, highlighting the case today, is urging member companies to keep a closer watch on product counterfeiting attempts by Communist bloc and Far Eastern countries.

The whisky consignment was a complete forgery, said the C.B.I. Labels, caps and cardboard cases were counterfeit and the bottles closely resembled the standard Johnny Walker product.

The whisky was described on

the transport documents as "neutral alcohol".

Only small tell-tale signs such as a green line to the glass indicated that the product was a fake.

The C.B.I. said that the evidence clearly showed the Bulgarian origin of the consignment.

The invoices were from a Sofia company and the transport documents showed the goods had been sent by Des-

pred, the state forwarding agency.

Requests from Distillers, the Johnny Walker owners, to the Bulgarian Embassy in London to investigate the case and halt the remaining deliveries have failed to produce a response.

The C.B.I. said that the silence of the Bulgarian authorities raised uncomfortable questions.

"This silence is discouraging because counterfeiting is widely recognised as a blatant criminal fraud," it said.

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5 SURVIVE 200ft CAR PLUNGE

FIVE people, including a three-year-old child, escaped with cuts and bruises when their car careered through motorway safety barriers no the Severo Bridge and plunged 200 ft at the weekend.

"To say they had a lucky escape is an understatement," said a police spokesman.

The Lacoda car skidded out of control across the M4 and through two barriers on part of the Severo Bridge where it crosses the River Wye.

After its plunge down an embankment, the car came to rest on the banks of the Wye.

Mr Garry Smart, a 24-year-old ambulance man, who was one of the first on the scene of the Saturday-night crash, said: "When we got down there the car was all folded in down to the size of a Mini."

"Somehow the car had gone through the crash barrier across a cycle path and then through the steel parapet fence."

The driver, Sarinda Singh Rai, 25, of Southall, was kept in hospital overnight with back injuries.

The passengers were named as Dip Gill, 40, Balbir Singh Gill, 27, Sukcharan Singh Gill, 25, all from Southall, and the child, Tarcharan Singh Gill, who came from Mid-Glamorgan.

News Round-up

Drunken students fined for chapel vandalism

TWO undergraduates at Brasenose College, Oxford, have been fined the maximum penalty by the college authorities and warned about their future conduct after admitting acts of vandalism in the 17th century college chapel.

The students, not named, lit altar candles and left them burning all night, with risk of a serious fire, piled hymn books on the altar and moved the bible from the lectern.

Both are aged 18, and in their second year, studying history and biochemistry. They were fined £50, and another £15 for a separate incident when they climbed on to the college roof to examine an ornate door.

Dr John Rowett, junior dean of the college, said: "Both undergraduates owned up the following day after they sobered up. Each wrote letters of apology to the college and the chaplain. It really was a drunken prank."

Youths sought in 'dead rider' hunt

Police investigating the death of a motorcyclist, killed when he rode into a sock-high rope stretched across a road on Bournemouth seafront, are looking for two youths, aged 15 to 18, seen near the crash scene late on Friday night.

The motorcyclist was Vincent Gabriel, of Undercliff Road, Bournemouth, who died on his 22nd birthday.

Yard hold man

in Diego Garcia

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the murder of a civilian worker on the tiny island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean have charged a Royal Marine.

The body of the Filipino, who works for an Anglo-American firm contracted to build harbour and runway facilities, was found inside the American base 11 days ago.

Greeks to question

terror suspect

An Arab terrorist suspect wanted for questioning about a series of bomb explosions in

Sailor plunges

60ft on to girl

A sailor who fell 60ft down the stairwell of a crowded store and the 16-year-old school-girl on whom he landed were both in a stable condition in hospital with back injuries yesterday.

Navy mechanic Kevin Brewster, 40, from the frigate Leander fell four storeys on to Kit Wah Wong at a Plymouth Co-operative store. Another man hit by the falling sailor was treated for cuts.

Death trial

writer appeals

Helen Hough, the crime novelist jailed for nine months at the Old Bailey on Friday for helping an 83-year-old friend to commit suicide, is to appeal against the sentence.

Mrs Hough, 60, of Ivor Street, Camden Town, pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of Miss Annette Harding. The appeal is due to be heard this week.

Forced landing

Four people escaped unhurt when a light aircraft made a forced landing in a field at Canewdon, Essex, yesterday shortly after taking off from Southend airport. The pilot said the plane had engine trouble.

Pop silenced

Libraries in East Sussex are to stop buying pop records, because they go out of fashion too quickly. The cash will be spent, instead, on records with more "lasting appeal."

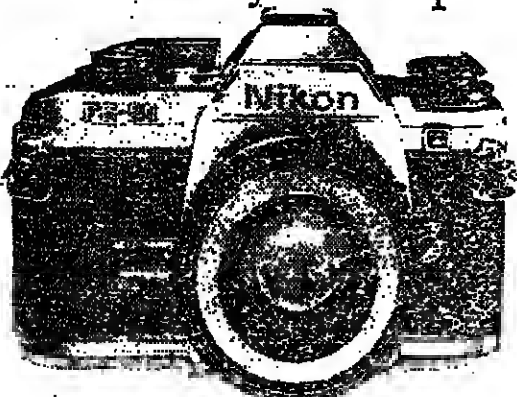
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When buying your first SLR camera you'll find no shortage of people advising you to invest in this system or that. They're all entitled to their opinion.

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The viewfinder is particularly clear, with information displayed in an easy-to-read fashion and like all Nikons the FG20 is compatible with the vast majority of Nikon lenses and accessories.

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Above all, though, the FG20 is extremely competitively priced. But then as we said, it really is a great little number to start with.

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GREAT HALL IN PEKING READY FOR THATCHER

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

A mild but relentless snowstorm in Peking workmen spent hours clearing ice from the high steps of the Great Hall of the People yesterday in readiness for Mrs Thatcher's return to the Land of the Dragon.

She is to be given a 19-gun salute, and all is expected to run smoothly on Wednesday. On her last visit in October, 1982, she stumbled on the steps and fell to her hands and knees.

She was also drawn then into a tough confrontation with the Chinese communist hierarchy over its "sacred mission" to reclaim Hong Kong.

Teng Hsiao-ping, the main Chinese leader, was reportedly to have found Mrs Thatcher in a post-Falklands mood causing him to wonder to an aide: "I can't talk to this woman. She is utterly unreasonable."

Judging by the tone of the Peking Press, all is now sweetness and light, however. Outlook, a leading political magazine published a flattering article last night congratulating Mrs Thatcher on being so far-sighted.

A 'fellow-pragmatist' China is preparing a brief but flawlessly orchestrated reception—cordial talks, ritual ceremonial, and a fine banquet at which sea slugs are to be served—for a "fellow-pragmatist" of Teng.

Ag Ke Hoa, a former Chinese envoy to the Court of St James, quietly observed at the weekend that Mrs Thatcher is now the toast of Peking. He called her "an outstanding woman with vision."

He said she had sized up the Hong Kong situation and "fully understood" China's unique concept of maintaining the territory as a capitalist enclave in a Marxist state.

"She then made a sensible policy decision at a critical juncture of the negotiations, thus pushing the Sino-British talks into a breakthrough," he added.

Mr Ambassador to Britain from 1979 to 1983, was referring to Mrs Thatcher's still controversial conclusion that it would be unwise to keep pressing Peking for a British role in the governing of Hong Kong once it was back in Chinese hands in July, 1997.

Mrs Thatcher, in written replies to questions put to her in London by the New China news agency, described the so-called "one country, two systems" idea as imaginative. Both sides were determined.

Both sides were determined. Both sides were determined. Both sides were determined.

Geneva talks clear way for Genscher trip East

By MICHAEL FARR in Bonn

HERR GENSCHER, West German Foreign Minister, will this week try to resume Bonn's efforts to promote the East-West dialogue with a three-day visit to Prague.

His previous attempt was short-circuited last month when he was forced to cancel a visit to Warsaw only hours before his departure because of "unacceptable conditions" set by the Polish Government.

But officials in Bonn were optimistic about the Prague visit—his first since February 1983, going ahead in view of the recent signs of an improved climate between Washington and Moscow.

Apart from the Soviet-American agreement that their foreign Ministers should meet next month in Geneva for talks, a meeting of Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers in East Berlin early this month called for a return to détente, dialogue and negotiations.

A desire for a relaxation of East-West tension and a resumption of arms talks was also expressed at last week's meeting in Brussels of Nato Foreign Ministers.

The state of East-West relations and possibilities for their development will be a principal theme of Herr Genscher's discussion in Prague, for which he sets out tomorrow.

One of the issues that caused the Polish trip to be aborted, the inclusion of a German journalist based in Vienna in the Minister's party, will be circumvented in Prague by Herr Genscher flying in a smaller aircraft with no space to accommodate interested reporters, who this time will have to make their own transport and accreditation arrangements.

Bonn officials reported no particular problems in preparations for the visit and were encouraged by a recent toning down in the Czechoslovak Press of earlier criticisms of West German "revanchism."

Bonn, and notably Herr Genscher, have vigorously denied such charges.

Quiet burial for purged police chief

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

THE former Chief of Soviet Police, Mr Nikolai Shchokolov, 73, who was disgraced and facing possible trial for corruption, was buried quietly in Moscow at the weekend.

Witnesses of the unannounced ceremony, watched over by plainclothes security guards, said the coffin was sealed as it went to the grave on Saturday. Russian coffins are traditionally left open until the last moment before burial.

This suggests that Mr Shchokolov may have killed himself, but firm conclusions cannot be drawn.

Plainclothes guards were again present yesterday as relatives placed red wine and bread topped with red caviar at the graveside.

A simple metal plaque fixed in a deep snow behind green railings said "Nikolai Anisimovich Shchokolov, died Dec. 13, 1984."

No death notice was published in the Soviet Press, where the most recent report about Mr Shchokolov last month, was that he had been stripped of his rank as general.

Date of dismissal Mr Shchokolov, a life-long crony of President Brezhnev, ran a notoriously corrupt civil police force as Minister of Internal Affairs for nearly 20 years.

He was the first to fall in President Andropov's anti-corruption drive. Mr Andropov sacked him a month after Mr Brezhnev's death in 1982.

He was replaced by one of Mr Andropov's former deputies in the KGB security organisation, Mr Viktor Fedorchuk. Mr Fedorchuk has since conducted a thorough house-cleaning within the civil police.

Mr Shchokolov was expelled from the Communist party's Central Committee in June last year, and the recent stripping of his rank removed the last barrier to possible prosecution.

After appearing to falter in the early days of President Chernenko's term, the crack-down on corruption began by Mr Andropov has been carried forward decisively.

The manager of Moscow's best-known food store was shot for corruption earlier this year. It seems Mr Shchokolov's death, however caused, may have been hastened by the shadow of similar punishment looming over him.

Mr Nikolai Shchokolov.

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BATTLE OF BULGE 'NUTS' MEMENTO

Several cities in the Belgian Ardennes region commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, the last serious attempt by Nazi Germany to turn back Allied forces on the Western Front.

The American Gen. George S. Patton's grand daughter Margaret threw nuts at a cheering crowd in Bastogne, a town surrounded by the famous "Nuts" comment the surrounded American Gen. McAuliffe when asked by the Germans to surrender.—A.P.

CLAY WARRIORS FOUND IN CHINA

Chinese archaeologists have unearthed 2,000 terracotta warriors, 12in high, and model horses, dating back to the Han Dynasty of 206 BC to 220 AD.

The find, in the coastal province of Jiangsu by a worker driving a bulldozer, ranked second only to the discovery in 1974 of life-size terracotta soldiers near the ancient frontier imperial capital of Xian in central China, said the official People's Daily.—Reuters.

ACTIVISTS HIDE FROM TROOPS

More than 100 Pakistani political activists opposing President Zia's move into hiding yesterday as troops appeared on Karachi streets during the run-up to a controversial national referendum on Wednesday.

The referendum would give the President, who seized power in 1977, a five-year mandate to continue in office. Canvassing against the referendum has been outlawed.—Reuters.

PANDA RESCUE

A big rescue operation is being mounted to save China's 1,000 giant pandas after 42 started to die when their staple food, arrow bamboo, entered a rare flowering cycle and withered.—A.P.

REBELS KILL 11

Anti-communist rebels in Mozambique killed 11 people in an ambush of four civilian vehicles near the Swaziland border.



Mr Michael Foot, former leader of the Labour party, attending the closing session of the Spanish Socialist Congress in Madrid yesterday.

Support won to keep Spain inside Nato

By TIM BROWN in Madrid

SOLID support of Spain's ruling Socialist party for keeping the country in Nato was won at the weekend by Senor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister.

This result, a personal triumph, clears the way for the Government to mount a pro-Nato campaign for the proposed referendum on the issue due in February, 1985, a month after the target date for Spain to join the EEC.

The support was won in a crucial three-hour debate on foreign policy lasting until early yesterday at the Spanish Socialist party's congress in Madrid.

Senor Gonzalez, 42 who a few hours later was unanimously re-elected as party leader, took the chief role in the debate as a powerful Left-wing element tried to stand up against the amendments that would have reversed official policy and put the party in favour of pulling out of Nato.

Only once in the sometimes heated debate was an official count necessary among some 700 delegates.

That came on the second amendment, which called for withdrawal from Nato, an end to the military bases agreement with the United States, and a "policy instead of bilateral defence agreements."

The result was 394 votes against the amendment and 286 in favour with 25 abstentions. Eighty delegates were not in the chamber for the vote.

The other amendments, one calling for a policy of neutrality, were lost with a show of cards.

Senor Gonzalez was at times in brilliant form as he dismissed, often with scorn, the Left-wing demands for neutrality and suggestions that Spain, by staying in Nato, would be just another member of a powerful bloc.

"To say that to take up arms is defence of freedom is wrong is a profound mistake," he said to stand-up applause from many delegates.

He declared: "If I had been the one to take Spain into the Atlantic alliance, I would not have done so. But in the two years of Socialist government Spain has not lost one iota of its freedom in carrying out its own foreign policy."

In principle he was still against military blocs, but he believed that for Spain the price of leaving Nato would be greater than that of staying in the alliance.

'Spendthrift' U.N. body attacked by Britain

By MICHAEL KALLENBACH at the United Nations

BRITAIN has voiced strong protests about excessive spending by the United Nations Council for Namibia and has dissociated itself from the allocation of an additional \$4 million (£3.3 million) for travel.

Despite passage of the item in the General Assembly, the British delegate in the United Nations Fifth (Budget) Committee has questioned the Council's budgetary procedures.

The delegate, Mr Andrew Murray, has asked the Council to respond to a recent plea by Senor Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General, to reduce travel spending.

The Namibia Council held a meeting in Bangkok earlier this year which cost more than \$300,000 (£19,000). Next year it plans several additional meetings "somewhere in Europe."

Mr Murray doubted that the Namibians people "significantly benefit by the decision to hold meetings away from headquarters."

"It seems that the principal beneficiaries are rather the members of the Council and other participants, along with the local hoteliers and tourist trade."

Greek demands dominate EEC expansion talks

By ALAN OSBORN Common Market Correspondent

UNCERTAINTIES about enlargement of the EEC to 12 members from 10 will dominate a two-day meeting of Foreign Ministers beginning in Brussels today.

The doubts are due to Greece.

Mr Papandreu, Greek Prime Minister, served notice at the Dublin summit meeting two weeks ago that Athens would block the EEC entry of Spain and Portugal until a £4 billion programme for aiding backward Mediterranean areas had been agreed.

The scheme, proposed by the Brussels EEC Commission in 1983, is aimed at compensating parts of Greece for effects of EEC enlargement. It would help to modernise agriculture and develop industry, energy, and tourism.

Greece's share of the total Community money proposed is put at £1.5 billion. This scheme has received practically no backing from other EEC Governments and only token funds have been set aside.

The deadline for agreement on terms of entry for Spain and Portugal is now March, when there will be an EEC summit meeting. This would apparently leave just enough time for changes in the Treaties to be ratified by member Parliaments of the Ten before the start of 1986.

But Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the Commission, has pressed serious doubt that the deadline can be met.

Williness not clear Whether these two countries will find the proposed deals satisfactory is another matter. The impression is that while both are unhappy about the offer, they will negotiate since treaty rejection would almost certainly put the proposed entry date of Jan. 1, 1986, beyond reach.

But the big question is as to the Greek Government's attitude. Mr Papandreu said that Athens was prepared to allow entry negotiations to continue.

Gaddafi presents bill for Italian occupation

By JAMES ALLAN in Tripoli

COL. GADDAFI is demanding compensation from Italy for 32 years of occupation, 40 years after Libya ceased to be an Italian colony. No figure has been named.

But Col. Gaddafi says the compensation must cover the 750,000 Libyans he claims died during Italy's rule from 1911 until its defeat by the Allies in 1943.

Signor Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister and former Premier, said during a recent visit to Tripoli that Italy would pay for a new hospital if details could be agreed.

A spokesman at the Italian Embassy in Tripoli said yesterday: "They have never given us a figure but from time to time add something else—people wounded and killed, injured by mines from the 1939-45 War and so on."

Signor Andreotti proposed a hospital and said if they accepted we could discuss how big a project it would be, but there has been no official reaction. I think Signor Andreotti will just give up the idea."

Col Gaddafi said in a recent interview with an Italian newspaper that in addition to a hospital "we want to know from Italy the fate of our citizens who were removed during the period of colonialism, as well as the fate of their wives and children."

Hostage threat He saw the proposed hospital as merely a starting point for negotiations. If the problem was not solved, he warned, some Libyans might act on their own and seize Italians as hostages or demand the confiscation of Italian companies.

Italy signed a friendship treaty with Libya in 1955 when it paid more than £1.5 million in what it thought were final reparations for its period as a colonial power, but Col Gaddafi does not regard the dealings with the former regime of King Idris whom he deposed in 1969.

Col Gaddafi claimed in the same interview that Libya had not fallen into a trap set by Egypt concerning the plot to kill Mr Bakoush, the Libyan Premier under King Idris, for which two British and two Maltese are facing trial in Egypt.

Photographs of Mr Bakoush, apparently dead, were published by the Egyptians, Libya announced it had been responsible and the Egyptians produced Mr Bakoush alive and well.

Col Gaddafi claimed it was in fact Egypt which had fallen for a Libyan plan to expose Egypt.

We succeeded in showing the Egyptian regime protecting the enemies of our people, the roots of the defunct monarchy," he said.

POPE BLESSES STATUETTES

The Pope yesterday was flanked for the first time by children instead of clergymen when he gave his weekly Angelus blessing from a Vatican window.

Five Rome children peeped from the window alongside the Pope as he blessed thousands of statues of the infant Jesus held by young pilgrims in St Peter's Square.—Reuters.

FUMES KILL 20

Gas fumes from home-heating coal have killed at least 20 people in Peking this month, most in poorly-ventilated homes.—A.P.

CUBANS DEAL ONLY A MODEST BREAKTHROUGH

By Our Washington Staff

The agreement to repatriate nearly 3,000 Cuban "undesirables" to Cuba from American prisons and hospitals is viewed by both sides as a modest breakthrough in relations. But neither appears to see it as more.

In the White House's view it "does not signal any change in policy toward Cuba" and Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister, Senor Ricardo Alarcon, who helped to negotiate the deal, said it could not be regarded as an opening for broader negotiations.

The White House spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes, said America "wants to see the end of the family of nations" in Central America.

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TROOPS TACKLING REBELS IN DIVIDED SRI LANKA TERRORISE TAMILS

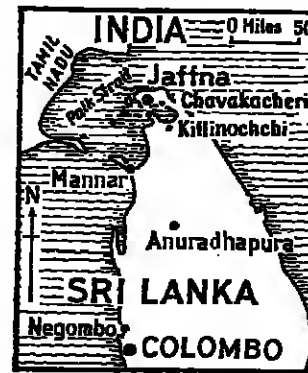
By DAVID GRAVES in Jaffna, Sri Lanka

SINHALESE and Tamil politicians met over the weekend in Colombo to discuss a peaceful solution to the demands of Tamil separatists. The only talk on the front line in Jaffna was of death and fear.

While the Government said it was striving for a political solution, the Tamils of Jaffna said that the Sri Lankan Armed Forces had unleashed a bloody campaign to crush rebels.

Jaffna may be only 300 miles north of Colombo, but it is a world apart.

It is under siege. The 800,000 inhabitants of the peninsula live in the shadow of murder, arson, bombings, and looting. In Colombo the Government and the state-owned media say these are carried out by Tamil terrorists. Everyone in Jaffna says they are committed by troops.



Appalling stories

As the first foreign journalist to reach Jaffna since the start of the rebel offensive last month I have spent three days listening to a series of appalling stories of rape, massacre, and intimidation.

A sobbing young woman, eight months pregnant, whose husband is working overseas, told me she was raped by a soldier at gunpoint the night before while other troops burned her mother's house.

I saw two bodies lying in the fields at Vadducoddai, eight miles west of Jaffna, where Dr Neelan Tiruchelvam, a former MP for the area, claimed troops shot dead 40 civilians last week.

Either the Tamils of Jaffna are the world's most astute propagandists or the Armed Forces are committing the most grotesque crimes away from international notice.

The people are in fear for their lives. On Saturday an Army patrol stopped in the centre of Jaffna town, and immediately dozens of men, women, and children ran away. They say there have been so many cases of troops opening fire indiscriminately.

A few hours later at 8.15, a bomb exploded at Stanley Road, near my hotel. Yesterday morn-

to a Tamil acquaintance with me they were hostile, often thrusting their rifles into his stomach.

There are no tears for soldiers and police killed by the rebels and the Government says the separatist terrorists are the population into supporting them.

Of the scores of people to whom I spoke, not one gave anything but a fact, if not active, support to the rebels, despite recent murders of informers and Sinhalese civilians.

The "terrorists" are simply people's sons, brothers, and husbands—fighting, in the eyes of Jaffna Tamils, to protect and liberate the community.

There is no doubt that most of the leftward-leaning rebel groups have training camps in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, where 50,000,000 Indian Tamils live, sharing language and culture with their 2,000,000 counterparts in Sri Lanka, only 25 miles away across the Palk Strait.

Despite Indian denials, the camps' existence is an open secret in Jaffna, and the rebels also have links with the P. V. Narayana Liberation Organisation, the South-West Africa People's Organisation, and the African National Congress of South Africa.

'KIDNAPPING PLOT'

Gurkhas 'as guards'

VILMA WIMALASIRI reports from Colombo: Security for M Lathip Aluthmulla, Minister for National Security, was said yesterday to have been tightened after a terrorist conspiracy to kidnap him last Thursday was uncovered.

The independent island newspaper reported that the Government had decided to employ retired Gurkhas resident in Hong Kong to guard vital installations. Government sources were not available to comment.

Indian Naval move

BALRAM TANDON reports from New Delhi: India has ordered Coastguards, backed by the Indian Navy, to ensure the security of Indian fishermen after complaints from them of harassment by Sri Lankan patrol boats.

PANIC RUSH KILLS 14

Fourteen wedding guests died in a stampede for the doors when a drunk threw a lit paper into a crowd of 200 revelers near the Turkish Black Sea town of Unye—Reuters.



Mr Manuel Esquivel, 44, the newly elected Prime Minister of Belize, hugging his British-born wife Kathy after his victory.

Garrison should stay, says Premier

By DAVID SHEARS in Belize

MANUEL ESQUIVEL, 44, newly-elected leader of this Central American nation, promised at the weekend that he would do all in his power to build fresh relations with Britain and keep the 1,800-man British garrison.

Mr Esquivel, physics school teacher with a British-born wife, will be sworn in today as Prime Minister by Dame Minita Gordon, the Commonwealth's only woman Governor-General. He succeeds Mr George Price, the "Father of the Nation".

By DAVID SHEARS in Belize

who led this country for more than two decades, Belize, formerly British Honduras, became independent in 1981.

Friday's general election, the first since independence, gave a landslide victory to Mr Esquivel's United Democratic party with 21 seats in the newly-enlarged House of Representatives, a three-to-one majority, over Mr Price's People's United party.

Press conference after the final returns were announced, Mr Esquivel said his pro-British, pro-American and pro-business stand.

He said he would seek a new British commitment to maintain the existing force.

But he recognised that the force would be pulled out "sooner rather than later," and said that in that event he would ask Washington for an American guarantee against Guatemalan aggression.

Britons spearhead Belize crackdown on drug smugglers

By DAVID SHEARS in Belize

LED by British officers, men of the Belize Defence Force lurk in the jungle of this Central American country—formerly British Honduras—and watch for drug smugglers using remote airstrips.

So far this year they have captured three planes engaged in the lucrative business of flying marijuana to America.

Li-Col Julian Starmier-Smith, Commandant of the BDF, told me: "Recently we captured an American pilot, David Wright, who had more than 2,000 lbs of marijuana."

This contraband would have fetched \$10 million (£2.25 million) on the American market. Wright had been remanded on bail by a Belize court.

"He didn't appear for trial," the Belize Government ended up with the money and the plane, not a bad haul," said Col. Starmier-Smith.

Working in close co-operation with the Belize police and American drug enforcement authorities, the colonel said he now kept men "sitting in the bushes at five o'clock every morning" overlooking airstrips around the country, as well as trying to intercept illicit flights the force was sending squads out to destroy marijuana crops.

Aerial survey

"With the aid of aerial survey we have burned 500 fields and one million marijuana plants in the last three months," the colonel said.

Marijuana-growing has become a major industry in this country, Col Starmier-Smith said that American experts believed Belize had become the Western hemisphere's second-biggest marijuana producer, after Colombia.



lacked a suitable climate for producing cocaine.

The 1,800 British troops in Belize are not involved in the drug crackdown. This task is commanded by the British colonel, aided by a small cadre of officers and NCOs on loan from the Army, Navy and R.A.F.

The BDF, less than seven years old, is still in its infancy. Its maritime wing, with 35 personnel, headed by Lt-Comdr Nigel Roberts, has two British-built Wasp patrol craft.

Its air wing comprises 12 men, led by Squadron Leader Dick Woodhead, flying two Britten-Norman Delandiers.

The Army contingent numbers 500 men organised in two infantry companies and various support units. Belize soldiers accompany British military patrols.

The Belizean government is constantly trying for good domestic political reasons to hasten the replacement of all the BDF's British officers and NCOs by Belizeans.

But Col Starmier-Smith, who reports to Mr Thatcher every fortnight, estimates that the process will take 10 years.

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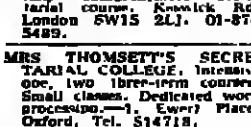
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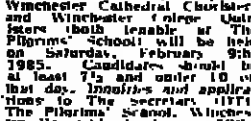
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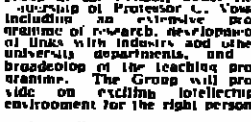
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EDUCATION: JOHN IZBICKI Ugly face of extremism

WHAT has been happening at the Polytechnic of North London these past months is symptomatic of a much wider wave of fascist behaviour—be it of the extreme Right or extreme Left—which has been undermining schools and colleges in many parts of the country. Neil Izbicki is by no means alone in wanting to be shot of Militant Tendency and other extremist infiltrators who are giving the Labour party of the Webbs and Bevans and Attlees a disreputable name.

Things came to a head a couple of years ago when Left-wing governors who had managed to secure places on school and polytechnic boards received a series of "guidelines." Let me refresh your memories. Governors were told that if the males held a majority, they should ensure that the "chair" and "vice" were also Tendency members and to "press for a vote." If in the minority, they should "interpose frequently on points of order and prevent a vote."

These like-minded governors should meet as a caucus before scheduled board meetings to decide exactly what points should be raised and who should raise them. Awkward lines should be picked for governors' meetings—like 9 a.m. or 5.30 p.m., and if the meeting was to be held at the school, head (poly director or college principal) should be constantly questioned and, wherever possible, discredited.

These militants were also instructed to side at all given opportunities with minority groups, be they ethnic or splinter groups like anticannabis and uniform lobbies, the sixth form and disaffected, disgruntled parents.

The "guidelines" continue in this vein, but I think those few examples might suffice to give a taste of the whole. But it is not means the Militant Tendency alone or even other Trotsky-like organisations that infiltrate. Take, for example, the City of Sheffield whose Leftist-controlled education committee (by no means composed solely or even mostly of extremists) had decided to commit itself to a tertiary system of post-16 education.

There was immediate opposition from parents and teachers in many parts of the city and protest meetings were planned. But a letter from the local authority to all headteachers had this to say: "Whereas the (education) committee does not, of course, object to the reasonable expression of views contrary to its policies, the committee could certainly not actively support those opposing its policies. Therefore, although requests for the hire of school premises by such individuals or groups will be considered in the normal way, the committee cannot allow the premises to be used for school communications systems, in the school to disseminate information by such groups."

More recently, Labour governors were asked to let their masters at the Sheffield town hall know how head teachers and the clerks and chairmen of governing boards were fulfilling their duties and whether they voted in line with party policy or not. Interest? Snooping? Spying? However

it is labelled, the whole thing does not taste of true democracy, does it? Labour authorities, at whatever point of the party's wide spectrum, do not hold the monopoly to dogmatism. Just see what happened at Bradford when one head spoke his mind.

Bradford is Tory-controlled, along with some help from the Liberals. Yet when Ray Honeyford decided to pen an article in the Right-wing *Sunday Review* in which he opined that white children became the disadvantaged group who were in a minority at school, the floodgates of venom were opened. Honeyford was hounded to the point of humiliation and was even offered a financial settlement to get out of his school.

The symptoms are widely spread. There are authorities whose councillors and governors are simply waiting for heads and principals to move elsewhere, resign or retire so that they may replace them with those thought to be politically more suitable. As for teachers, if we consult those "guidelines"...

"Insist on interviewing candidates for vacant posts and serving application forms and letters. Look for good track record." The document states, "What kind of 'track record' is the note: 'Teachers trained in the late 60s are often suitable.'"

Late 60s? Remember the student revolts in Berkeley, Berlin, Paris and London among others? Many of those students are now respected members of the establishment. But others are still in their never-ending land, pushing their wares inside staff rooms, education committees and governing bodies of many scores of schools and

colleges. In those heady days, Frances Morrell, leader of the N.E.A., left the teaching profession to become Press officer for both the Fabian Society and the National Union of Students.

It was also at about that time (in 1971) that polytechnics were being designated, among them the Polytechnic of North London. Mrs Morrell, who was incidentally a most efficient Press officer, witnessed the birth of trouble at P.N.L. with the appointment of Terence Miller as its first director. Last week, the leader of the Left-wing dominated authority announced the selling up of a probe into the polytechnic's present troubles.

Throughout its 13-year history P.N.L. has had to suffer political interference and almost constant burrowing by fascist students (Left and Right), some of them deliberately planted by their parties, others not even registered on the rolls.

Miller, a man who thoroughly enjoyed confrontations, became the ideal peg on which militant things could hang their ambitions—the destruction of an academically sound institution. He had been directed by the University College of Rhodesia and, although he had operated a policy with virtually open access for black students, he was rewarded with the label: "Nazi."

David MacDowall, a milder, more appealing man, has now also been dubbed "Nazi." Because he refused to throw academic freedom in the winds and expel a student, Patrick Harrington, however obnoxious that particular National Front member's views may be. Instead, MacDowall has thrown in the towel and taken (forced) early retirement at the age of 54.

Even Frances Morrell does not have it all her own way. Last month she was openly criticised at a private

meeting of the London Labour party executive for continuing "to allow" Patrick Harrington to remain a student at P.N.L. Her critics were the Young Socialists. Big fears, it seems, still have little effect upon their backs to bite them.



One of the National Front "minders" who accompanied Patrick Harrington to the North London Polytechnic.

DESK DIARY

CONGRATULATIONS to Thomas Harrington, first for having sent a black reporter to interview Patrick Harrington, and second, for reporting the interview in its unedited version on Wednesday. Harrington's suggestion that black students of the polytechnic should be "gradually repatriated" was a howl. Many of them would have to be repatriated to such far-flung parts as Eritrea, Manchester and Wandsworth. His views that black people cannot be considered as citizens must be considered offensive even to those who do not find that everything black is beautiful.

DRUNKEN prank or devil worship? Those were the questions asked after candles were burned and hymn books scattered around Brasenose Chapel, Oxford, towards the end of last month.

There was talk—reported in *Cherwell*, the university's newspaper—of inserted crosses and pentagrams being hung down on the floor. Such rumours were fairly enthusiastically scooped by Patrick Irwin, college chaplain, who said he had seen nothing

more than piled-up hymn books and burned candles. Still, the incident, so close to Christmas, led to some fairly sensational speculation. After all, Brasenose has always been closely linked with the infamous Hell Fire Club, a society which continues to lay a 15th place for the devil whenever it meets.

FOR THOSE who need to have of hand a complete list of every middle, secondary and special school in the country, whether State-maintained or independent, and to delve into the detailed make-up of every local education authority, as well as a breakdown of every university and polytechnic in Britain, will be happy to learn that the Education Year Book 1985 is now available. In my office, we roll it the educational bible. Its 1,000 or so pages are available, price £27.00 from Longman, Retail Services, Fourth Avenue, Harlow, Essex.

THE confusion reigning at North London Polytechnic managed to

transmit itself to Blackpool for last week's N.U.S. conference. The polytechnic delegates could not find their conference voting card. It had been lost by Peter Redman, delegation leader, who later said he had been mugged.

Redman's carelessness came as an opportunity to help to the Socialist Workers' since the delegation had to follow its line during any vote, like it or not. Another SWP member in the delegation, Steve Brown, received a standing ovation for some stirring rhetoric on behalf of the "Horrifying Out" campaign, of which he is the leader.

Brown, though a first-year student (social work), is more experienced than his label might suggest. He had worked for the Left-wing Brent council before arriving at the poly's Holloway campus, equipped with a silver tongue and full knowledge of union procedure. No chickens, these SWP chaps. Brown is 28; Redman, second year history, is 27.

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NOTEBOOK: TIM HEALD

Signpost to the straight & narrow

AT FIRST glance Grendon gives off very much the same vibes as one of our newer provincial universities: a garden campus neat with roses and pampas grass; boss man, a slightly shuffling figure with long, greynish hair and a deer-stalker — clearly a renegade from All Souls; executive corridors busy with smiling girls clutching sheaves of paper; foundation stone laid by Lord ("Rab") Butler.

I spent a fascinating day there recently and one particular item reminded me every moment that the first glance impression is quite wrong. Grendon equivalent of canned music is a jangling of keys on chains, for every member of the staff carries a heavy chain with keys attached to his trousers. Grendon is not a rural ivory tower. Grendon's inmates have burgled and raped, and assaulted and killed. Grendon is jail.

There are four adult wings at Grendon, which is between Aylesbury and Bicester, and two for young offenders. "B" wing has about 40 inmates and my hosts were Edgar Darling, a psychologist, and Alan Jackson, a senior hospital officer. They were the men in charge, although during the wing meeting the chair was taken by an inmate (drugs and burglary). Part of the Grendon experiment is to reverse traditional roles. In a game of indoor hockey the other day Governor Selby was sent off for rough play. The referee who booked him was a convicted prisoner. There was no way out of "B" wing for the offenders but once they are locked in they can move about quite freely and they call the prison officers by their Christian names. Just like the Dragon School, Oxford, Grendon has a television. Decisions about which programmes are watched are taken by vote every afternoon.



Prisoners aren't sent to Grendon: they volunteer. Prison medical staff vet the applications and when they first arrive they spend some time in the hospital wing being assessed. Then they are assigned to a wing. The cure of the treatment is "therapy", a word from which everyone I spoke to fought shy but for which no one could provide an alternative. Therapy in action can be seen in two sorts of session. Three mornings a week a group of about eight inmates meet to talk under the supervision of a member of staff. Three afternoons a week the entire wing — staff and prisoners — get together in a talk-in chaired by an inmate elected by the other prisoners. In the television room Edgar, the psychologist, was sitting on a corner sofa listening unobtrusively as a dark-haired man with a moustache spoke volubly about his past life and his apprehensions about resuming it. He was very Scottish. "I do a burglary every day," he was saying. "It's my way of life. I do it for the alcohol." When he'd finished he looked up at me, smiled and said, "My name's Jim. I'm an alcoholic." He was in for burglary. One by one the group told me

their Christian names, their offences and their sentences: five years, three, arson, robbery with violence. It was like a macabre pastiche of "University Challenge." For: "I'm Fiona reading Greats at Christ Church," read: "I'm Max doing three years for manslaughter."

Then everyone had a go at Jim. Jim's sentence was almost over, and he was flourishing. One of the others was telling him, persuasively, about Alcoholics Anonymous. Edgar sat silently in his gold-rimmed glasses listening attentively.

The atmosphere was intense, solemn, heavy with smoke from home-rolled cigarettes. A plastic jug of tea was passed round. Almost everyone seemed to have tattoos. Some hands and forearms were covered in crudely executed letters and designs. Some men spoke often, some were silent. No one seemed anything but serious and the concentration was barely audible, face buried in hand, seemingly quite anguished.

a community — not isolated in locked cells; they were encouraged, constantly, to grow up and to change. That afternoon I sat in on a meeting of the whole of "B" wing. Most of the hour was taken up with two individuals. The first was a habitually violent criminal who had given someone a shove in the kitchen. You don't fight in Grendon. Not therapeutic. As with the morning meeting the atmosphere was extraordinarily sombre. Everyone spoke softly, some very faintly with fairly glib-sounding, faintly psychiatric clichés: others haltingly with a three- or four-word vocabulary unreplicable in a family paper. The man under cross examination was barely audible, face buried in hand, seemingly quite anguished.



Dead on the hour the group dispersed and spokesmen from all the others came in to report their meetings; a long, harrowing first-hand account of a murder at the end of which the murderer had broken down and wept; one man disgruntled because the Governor had been less generous over parole than he had expected; a third having a row with a prison officer but getting no support from his peers.

frames on his treasured photographs. "It's the first time," he said, very haltingly, "for a long time that I've really wanted to do someone some damage. I've gone out of my way to help people in this wing and now..."

It was an ironic moment. He was displaying exactly the emotions that I had done when a few years ago someone — probably someone like him — had broken into my home and made off with many of my most treasured possessions.

Much of the evening discussion was just obscene abuse. Then the inmates rounded on the staff and particularly the senior hospital officer, Alan Jackson. People, they insisted, couldn't be trusted. The cell doors should be locked. If you left them open things like this were bound to happen. Thieves and vandals would run amok. It shouldn't be allowed. Lock the cells. Jackson was furious. "I don't see what you solve by locking doors," he said. "You're here to live as a community and sort yourselves out. You can have conventionalism if you want but I think it's counter-productive. There are people covering up for each other here and you're not going to help each other by doing that. You shouldn't be asking ME to solve it. YOU'RE the community. YOU solve it."

Total role reversal: convicts demanding locked cells: "screws" refusing: just one of the Grendon paradoxes. In an ordinary prison the prisoner is kept in custody and spewed out probably more criminal than he was before. That can happen at Grendon. But very last effort is made to solve it. YOU'RE the community. YOU solve it. After more than 20 years it's still regarded as an experiment and the results are optimistic. He overalls. We have to put the brake on him." Big spenders are not unpopular. One man I met in Tio Sam's in Torremolinos, a neighbour of Clifford Saxe, said: "We were all down the Capelania beach the other day and in buses. Saxe is all on him, he says 'loose' till it all out of your ears and all as you can eat. How can you knock a guy like that?" Many crimes in this sunny spot for shady characters are drug related. Some 800 Spanish and British residents of Nirja recently staged a meeting to protest at short-armed drug addicts. One of the problems is that the Costa falls on a main trafficking route. Malaga police are keen to emphasise that they are co-operating fully with Scotland Yard, who have three men permanently here, one a Spanish speaker. The soaring crime rate includes the making of particularly unpleasant pornography involving minors and violent street crime, often with tourists as the victims, sometimes ending in murder. The civil governor, Senor Placido Conde, took up the theme: "We are not going to let the Costa del Sol become a Marsilles." By one of life's rich ironies, when I returned to my car from his office I found a side window smashed and all contents removed. In an attempted car park. Perhaps the Costa del Sol really is the bit of Spain that fell off the back of a lorry.

GEOFFREY FLETCHER'S LONDON

Changing faces

IN MY book, there is no such thing as a redundant church — although there may be some clerics who ought to be made redundant. One church in London which has comfortably escaped the "redundant" label by merit, as it were, changing its congregation, is the London University Church of Christ the King in Gordon Square, the well-adorned heart of Bloomsbury.

Built by R. Brandon, this was formerly the Catholic Apostolic Church, belonging to the community who gathered round Edward Irving, Carlyle's friend and a preacher of such tremendous power that when he was preaching the streets were said to be blocked with carriages.

Brandon was one of the most scholarly and gifted of the earlier Gothic Revivalists — much more, in fact, than Pugin, who was largely a designer and decorator — and his great church built of both stone and brick, though unfinished (the tower and spire were never completed), is a most marvellous recreation of Early English style.

When it changed its allegiance, it was a much less rum transformation than that of another Bloomsbury landmark, the Theatre Royal, which forms part of what is now the complex of buildings of the B.M.A.

It was while I was studying a wood engraving of the Royal Academy in the Victoria Library that it occurred to me what an immense number of buildings were while elephants, or had changed their function. The Royal Academy — the site is occupied by



London University Church, Bloomsbury

Drawing by GEOFFREY FLETCHER

the Methodist Central Hall — was a notable dud; even a white marble and performing a Victorian public. This was merely a bad speculation. What is more serious is the lengthening list of buildings no longer fulfilling their original purpose.

In my hands, hinged cinema would revert to films. When Lancashire cotton mills are turned into postal shopping depots (I know one that has become a sauna bath), the Manchester Cotton Exchange has become a leisure

centre and the warehouses of our great ports are transformed into flats, tourist attractions and museums, we have in fact, an index to a profound internal degeneration.

It is true that at the Reformation abbeys and convent buildings were turned into cowsheds and that the railways pushed the stage coach system out of business, but these movements were a sign of life. What we have today is something quite different and very nasty.

Where manana takes on a new meaning

AT LEAST some of the British community on the Costa del Sol are showing sun-froid amid all the recent reports of mugging and other unpleasantness: hundreds of people the British police would like to interview are staying on, undeterred by the news that Spain and Britain are going ahead with a tougher extradition treaty.

One jet-setter whose own past would not bear close scrutiny likened it to the British in war-time Singapore. The Brits then sipped pink gin, stroked tennis balls and conversed politely even as the Japs rushed south through the Malayan peninsula. When the warrant-bearing policemen and inland revenue inspectors eventually moved south through the Iberian peninsula, some of the interesting characters will no doubt have gone: those staying on will have been seduced by inertia, coca libre and an attachment for a sybaritic life in the sun.

Besides, a lot of those sought by the Yard have, like Mrs Thatcher, been staying on the property-owning democracy. One such — who assured me he will not be leaving — is Ronnie Knight, estranged husband of the "Carry On" actress Barbara Windsor. Police would like to see Knight about a £6 million said in Shoreditch last year on Security Express, but he denies any involvement.

A short walk from Knight's villa with its spectacular views of the Mediterranean are another splendid home, this one owned by Clifford Saxe, former landlord of the Fox in Kingsland Road, Hackney. There, it has been alleged, details of the Shoreditch raid were drawn up along with the plan to claim Saxe has always strenuously denied.

Saxe is groved, bespectacled, wearing an open-neck shirt — one has made a point of calling before lunch but it is already

Last week the Spanish Cabinet approved a draft law to expel foreigners engaged in crime. PETER PALLOT has been mixing with those serving time on the Costa del Sol

warm. In the V of the open neck glints a gold necklace of exceptional weight. From a deeply suntanned wrist whence dangles a chain of still greater weight, a finger threatens. It points to the reinforced gate indicating my exit. Mr Saxe is not receiving visitors today.

The buzz on Knight and Co is that they have opened a bar in Los Boliches. It's Friday night so why not drop in? This was the Palladium Bar, renamed The Office. The reason becomes apparent when one sees the man who looks like extras from "The Godfather" swilling scotch and talking in Cockney rhyming slang.

They wear £500 leather jackets, with jewellery of exquisite taste, and have professionally manicured fingernails and hairstyles you see in barbers' windows. A woman wears a gold necklace with the legend "Dureen" in half-inch high capitals. About to engage one of Dureen's friends in conversation, my mouth goes dry and legs feel weak. Chicken, I leave, my beer unfinished.

In the 100 years of Britain's previous extradition treaty with Spain, 14 Britons were in fact returned by Spain, while only one went the other way, despite 44 applications for extradition by the Spanish authorities. Spain, therefore, can hardly be blamed for tearing up the treaty.

In economic terms that must have helped her. No one can estimate the sums of money "laundered" through Spain, but it is said that, for instance, the Shoreditch cash brought property worth at least £1 million. Larousse being spread from one villa is allegedly part of the proceeds from a £40 million VAT gold racket. Meanwhile Judah

Binstock, wanted for inquiries in connection with an alleged £2 million currency swindle, throws lavish parties at his £500,000 Marbella villa.

At Marbella one breakfasts at the Coffee Dock pavement café to watch the world and a hood or three go by. The café forms part of Parque Marbella, a luxury development on the port. This is where three of Knight's buddies — Freddie Freeman, John Everett and John Mason — have been sentenced to eight £70,000 apartments.

Then to Puerto Banus. This is a sort of Torremolinos for the middle classes. Luxury yachts cram the marina. Many are said to be the rewards of sin, bought by laundrers to "launder" money. The sex industry has a firm hold here. At the Ly Sauna-massage parlour (above the No-Noxy International Night Club) the charge is £50, payable by credit card. But here we do everything, says a severely underdressed girl.

The Navy disco-bar in Puerto Banus. One o'clock in the morning. Enter Brian Doran, sought by Glasgow police for nearly 18 months in connection with cocaine smuggling charges. My offer of a drink is declined. One of four minutes like Doran with a strong Glaswegian accent, says: "P — off." A girl is persuaded to approach Doran. Her offer of a dance is rejected, but one of the group gallantly agrees — only, it transpires, to sue me out.

To palm-treeed San Pedro to catercrash an cocaine-meat party. The venue is the Mezon San Pedro, a chic eatery in the main square. One of the joint owners is John Edensor, his bluff, bearded face and amusing. Edensor came here soon after the old extradition treaty ended in

1978. The Treasury wanted to question him about the sudden collapse of a company.

"I'm in the clear. I'm not wanted by anyone in England," booms Edensor.

"Except by your second wife with a maintenance order," chips in a wit. This is "Screw" Leonard Scruton, who left Brito after an official inquiry criticised his conduct of a company, Burnholme and Ford, and a related company, Motor Rail. The Treasury also wanted to interview Scruton over matters arising from the now-defunct dollar premium surcharge.

It seems indelicate to raise these matters as Screw celebrates his engagement. His fiancée, a charmer called Mary, shows me the ring and to laughter all round points out one problem: Screw is already married.

Edensor and Scruton are described by another guest as the best double act on the coast. One thing is sure — the Meson serves an excellent steak.

Among others who are greasing the wheels of the Spanish economy are Ken Grob, a director of Alexander Howden, the insurance group from which £42 million was allegedly misappropriated; Malcolm Ross, wanted by police after a £2 million property deal in Birmingham; and his friend Robert Chabon, the West Midlands jeweller who disappeared at the same time as £5 million in stock from his shops.

What do the less colourful British residents make of it all? The unwritten law on the Costa seems to be that you never inquire too deeply. "Half the bars in Marbella are owned by crooks," but you've still got to drink, one law-abider told me.

And another: "I went to a party yesterday and someone

just pointed round the room — a pornographer there, a City swindler next to him, a crooked arms dealer in the same group. A tax dodger there — well, tax dodgers are everywhere here."

The spirit of laissez-faire seems to be epitomised by the fact that Robert Chatwin is able to land a job selling villas. His managing director, Manuel Martin, described Chatwin as: "One of our better salesmen — he has many rich contacts in England, but he's a bit over-optimistic. He over-sells. We have to put the brake on him."

Big spenders are not unpopular. One man I met in Tio Sam's in Torremolinos, a neighbour of Clifford Saxe, said: "We were all down the Capelania beach the other day and in buses. Saxe is all on him, he says 'loose' till it all out of your ears and all as you can eat. How can you knock a guy like that?"

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FARMER'S DIARY

AGRICULTURALLY we are two nations. Those who farm good arable land have had an easy year. Those who farm livestock, and particularly dairy cattle, have more to worry about than ever.

In the past, the differences have caused no more than friendly rivalry and mild envy, but in the past few years feelings have hardened to antagonism and resentment.

The division runs down the centre of Britain, separating the fertile east from the animal waste. It has many blurred edges — mixed farms and shared interests — but the East Anglian grain baron and the Dyfed dairy farmer have no more in common than the Liverpool dockworker and the South-gate commuter of the political two nations.

Those of us in the west who rely on livestock and grow wheat and barley on land that is hardly suitable for it, have a picture of the easy arable life which is distorted by jealousy. What does the corn man do all winter, while we are feeding sheep and milking cows? We like to think that the only decision he faces, once the shooting season is over, is whether to head for Barbados or Courchevel.

Similarly, and equally unfairly, the men from the east dismiss us as "cow-keepers," a term which implies a peasant approach to farming — mud, muck and muddle.

Currently both the Minister of Agriculture and the President of the National Farmers' Union are seen as eastern arable men (the Minister farms Grade 1 land in Yorkshire; Sir Richard Butler, the President, farms in Lincolnshire).

It is unfortunate that in the year in which milk quotas were so abruptly imposed, livestock farmers could see no sympathy in the establishment of a farming's establishment. This has provoked anger within the industry in England and Wales. The Scottish Farmers' Union does not give the same impression of arable bias.

The resentment comes from economic envy, at least one farming company, which man-

JAMES GLADSTONE

Land of haves and have nots

'Divided Britain' extends to agriculture

ages many thousands acres for a large financial institution, makes it a rule to have no animals on the farms at all. Its directors say that the savings in labour and increase in profits realised when the cows go always exceed their estimates.

That is only true on good quality land. The Minister has said that people growing corn on poor land "will have to consider alternative enterprises." More resentment stems from the fact that the three obvious alternatives — beef, sheep and milk — are all in surplus. Similarly, for many dairy farms, there is no obvious alternative to milk. On good land, however, corn, oilseed rape, vegetables, all kinds of crops are possible.

The contrast between prosperous east and quagmire west is a point to remember when the Ministry of Agriculture produces figures, as it soon surely will, to show that the average farm income in 1984 was up on the figure for 1983. The figure of 10 per cent has already been noted.

There is no such thing as an average farm. The dry summer, which brought such excellent crops for the arable men, brought only a serious shortage of grass for the cow-keepers. The differences were plain inside Earls Court during Smithfield week. The livestock farmers at the back of the hall in the cattle lines were nervous about the future and still simmering about the injustices of the year. The arable men were busy in the machinery lines, keen to buy tractors and combines before the clamp-down on capital allowances and corporation tax in April.

Such accountants' niceties are of no interest to dairy farmers this year: the cut in their income means many of them will have no profits to spend. While at least one East Anglian supplier of arable machinery used the word "boom" at Smithfield, my dairy equipment supplier in Dumfries has no work for his one remaining fitter.

I felt the contrast particularly strongly because I travelled to Smithfield from the Cotswold farm. At exactly the moment that the show was opening, the gleaming machines receiving their final polishes and the cattle their last shampoos and blow-dries before stepping on to the white sawdust of the prize ring, I was in Scotland staring into what is emphatically known as the slurry tank, although there are cruder names for it.

The rain was sheeting in off the Solway as if it would never stop and three of us stood with our shoulders hunched against the downpour, wondering why the slurry would not budge. Were we really part of the industry depicted at Earls Court?

The cows in Scotland have been boomed for some weeks now. They roam loose in a big building built over tanks. They lie in cushioned cubicles, but their dung falls through slats in the passages and is stored in the tanks whence it is pumped and spread on the fields.

That Monday morning the pump would not move it and over the weekend the tide of slurry had risen slowly but relentlessly towards the tanks. The Fitzmill line was close. Mud, muck and muddle — precisely the grain baron's view of the cow-keeper's life.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

JOHN BARBER

IN LIGHT entertainment the man of the year must be Ray Cooney. A manager, he has taken on the once abandoned Shaftesbury Theatre and made it a humming success. As a producer, he has brought one or two notable shows into his second theatre, the Ambassadors. As an author, he has written the funniest farce of the decade, "Two Into One," while elsewhere in London his "Run For Your Wife" has now run for two years.

A tireless worker, he owes the success of "Two Into One" to three years' work. Playing the leading role himself, he tried it out at Leicester, then at Guildford, testing every laugh, rewriting all the time. For the West End he re-directed it and cast a star actor (Donald Sinden) and one untried in farce (Michael Williams), taking a chance on the pair for the unlikely reason that they had worked so well together at King Lear and the Fool at Stratford-upon-Avon.

A modest, sunny personality who learned his trade at the Whitehall with Brian Rix, Mr Cooney explains a farceur's difficulty, in a permissive age, in convincing a straight man with any genuine shock value. How has he managed it? In "Run For Your Wife" his hero is silly enough not to tell his girlfriend he is married. So, to keep her happy, he marries her bigamously, and bigamy is a criminal offence.

In "Two Into One," his hero is a married Government Minister who takes one of Mrs Thatcher's secretaries in a hotel for an afternoon's nooky, and is threatened with public exposure on the first version, when he was an actor. "I realised," says Mr Cooney, "that audiences think actors carry on immorally all the time. It adds to the fun that the chosen hotel is up market and highly respectable. Farce is a strict comic form not wholly understood, on recent showing, by eminent theatrical gurus. At the National, I found Feydeau's 'A Little Hot on the Side' unaccountably limp. Timothy West and Prunella Scales lately scored a disaster in Bamber Gascoigne's 'Big in Brazil.' Mr Cooney did not see the play, but understands how this could happen.

Because what my characters are doing is so outrageous," he says, "we spend a lot of time here trying to make each of them wholly credible. Michael Williams would be acceptable in a straight play as a serious civil servant. Linda Hayden could be Sinden's PM's secretary. Donald Sinden has the dignity and weight for a Minister. I spend a lot of my time time discouraging actors from putting on funny accents, moustaches and beards. They ring me up with bright ideas which I gently quash. Classical actors are accustomed

Ray's a laugh

to hiding behind false noses, wigs, glasses, stutters, blank verse. My plays totally expose you because the language is so ordinary — no word over three syllables — I left school at 14! We play everything absolutely straight for real. The characters have got to do nothing other than serve the plot."

I criticised Mr Cooney sharply for the low quality of some of the plays he put on at the Ambassadors this year, especially as in the past he has promoted serious, non-farce plays like James Saunders' "Duet For One" and Tom Kempster's "Duet For One." He agrees. He admits he took on too much in leasing the Ambassadors with the object of developing new writers by putting on a new play there every six weeks.

So he has decided to give up his lease, though he still feels dedicated to unearthing new popular talent (which he does as the theatre's direct need) through his Theatre of Comedy company. But he will put on the plays as he finds them. He is as aware as anyone of the excellent writers lately discovered by Hampstead, the Bush and Stratford, E. With two bits in his hands, he now looks to be able to find time to ease promising work towards the West End audiences.

TEACHER'S A WELCOME AWAITING

courses call for a minimum levels, usually including math, and it is common to gain at part-time or evening by correspondence course.

NEXT WEEK:

A TIME TO SEE THE LIGHT AS FASHION AT LAST TEAMS THE CASUAL WITH THE SPORTY

Pictures by
ANTHONY MARSHALL



PICTURED:

From left to right: Pastel pink and grey jacket with black webbing belt by Cosmic £67-95, grey racing pants by Skin £79-95, grey racer gloves by Event £33-95, pink sunglasses £19-95, pink pouch bag £5-50, pink gaiters £4-95, all from Du Sport, King's Road, London SW3; grey, pink and white mouse earmuffs £4-95 from Fenwick, London W1.

□ □

Tiger-printed, padded cotton gilet in subtle grey, turquoise, yellow and white £139-95 (not shown), matching tiger-print trousers £119-95) both by Jet Set; grey ribbed cotton knit top with high drawstring neck by Luhta £34-95; all from Lillywhites; pastel knit Arab-style head-dress by Steffner £15-95, from Du Sport.

□ □

Puffy sunray jacket in black, white and royal blue with red rising sun motif on back £39-99, red stirrup pants £25, red, white and blue cowl necks twisted together £7-99 each, padded red hat £3-25, all from C. & A. branches; red and navy mitts by Kelly £24-90, from Alpine Sports, Kensington High Street, London W8.

YOUR biggest problem on the ski slopes this year could be making sure that other people can see you coming.

For the high-fashion colour of the season is snow-camouflage white, something which old mountain hands would regard as very imprudent wear. Luckily it is almost always combined with other vivid shades and, as a base colour, gives plenty of scope for interesting accessories.

Apart from a general feeling of lightness and brightness — pastel mixes are also important, especially if printed — the other main skiwear story is versatile layers.

Buying a whole new outfit for the slopes is no small investment and, sensibly, manufacturers are now concentrating on multi-purpose items that can be teamed with non-ski clothes for apres-ski or for casual occasions at home.

Because of this new co-ordinates mood, the highly-technical one-piece is taking a back seat fashion-wise, though serious skiing buffs may still prefer it.

It has been rather ousted by the new ski trousers that, made to fit without the high bib-front of the old ski salopettes, can also double as off-slope wear.

They appear in many different guises, from the traditional stretch racing pants with braces (not flattering, except for the willowy) through nostalgic stirrup-footed styles to a generously-cut fat-guise shape, usually belted and with lots of pockets.

Newest-looking shape in this style teams with a pull-on, sweatshirt-based top.

French designer Henri Duvillard takes the idea further by giving his sweatshirt proofed, and padded nylon sleeves for good-weather wear, plus an equally-padded over-gilet to keep out snow and cold.

Another plus point for British skiers this year is the ever-increasing variety of skiwear shops and the efforts they are making not to duplicate their stock by having certain ranges on an exclusive basis. This has led to a sense almost of competition between buyers as they search out new and interesting ranges — and mostly from abroad — and this eventually can only be good for the consumer.

For instance, Du Sport, a new skiwear shop in London's King's Road

IT'S WHITE WITH A DASH FOR DAYS ON THE SLOPES

which, its owners hope, will be the first of a small chain, has introduced the budget-priced, well-designed Cosmic range to Britain.

It also has the wide-shouldered, high-fashion Ski range, the matt cotton and sweatshirting utility styles in bright

budget Finnish ranges like Luhta (particularly stylish this year) and Finn Skija. Alpine Sports has well-known ranges like Ellesse and Killy and the best-selling British-made range Neveca, plus Hechter's wonderful, functional grey and white shapes in proofed, crushed, silky fabric.

chainstores are an excellent option, with C & A still away ahead of the field on style for price. It also has an excellent and imaginative accessory range.

Some shops, notably Alpine Sports, will hire skiwear though the doyens of hiring, Moss Bros, say it now finds most people prefer to buy and its hire business is quite small.

However, it has an extensive range for hire, for both adults and children, based on a price of £14-50 for either jacket or trousers for a 10-day period. It will also do hire packages for school parties. Its retail side includes both high-fashion and technically-advanced names like HCC, SOS, Event and Luhta.

Apart from this, hiring skiwear for children is difficult.

This seems particularly tough on parents sending children on first school parties. They may find themselves spending out on a complete kit for what proves to be a one-trip wonder. Begging and borrowing seem to be the answer, and some schools have a system for this.

Some more adventurous dress agencies who cover sportswear will often take one-trip-worn skiwear. For instance, the Frock Exchange at Kimbolton in Cambridgeshire suggests parents buy an inexpensive outfit from, say, C & A, and if it is suitable and cleaned, they will recycle it within the same season. Agencies like this are also a good source from which to buy an inexpensive outfit.

BY AVRIL GROOM

colours from Anzi Besson, and a very comprehensive accessory range.

Lillywhites headed the battle for exclusivity last year with its much-expanded skiwear department and still has some of the most exciting styles around from top names like Jet Set, Allsport and Peter Steinbronn as well as very good coverage of

Snow and Rock. In turn, has Luhta and other well-known names plus big, bright or pastel survival-gear shapes from the Swedish Big Ski label.

Simpson is for upmarket customers with one of the best selections from the Head range, plus HCC, Ellesse and Killy. For first-timers and any skier on a budget, the

OFF PISTE, ALL-CHANGE FOR APRES-SKI

APRES-SKI and on-slope wear are almost interchangeable these days: versatile, layered ski-gear can easily be co-ordinated to look good around the resort after you've finished your day's exercise, while this year's padded-cotton, pastel, survival-war styled casual clothes could double on the slopes.

They look best worn with a really bright, bold sweater and some vivid accessories to give them a lift and tone with the Alpine surroundings.

Another relaxing and perennial apres-ski theme is the tracksuit style: great for lounging in your hotel with a post-ski hot chocolate or glühwein.

Best Company's American-

style shirt motif sweatshirts, available from Lillywhites, are very chic, and Adidas has a whole new range of pastel styles with geometric motifs plus cross-country ski outfits that can do apres-ski duty.

Any of these would be fine in, for example, the casual atmosphere of the bar at the Hotel de Verbier in Verbier,

Switzerland, where our ski-season pictures were taken.

This is the village's favourite meeting place for a post-slope drink and one of the spots the Ski Club of Great Britain uses as a base for its holiday parties, and where its representative can be contacted by members.

Verbier is well known as one

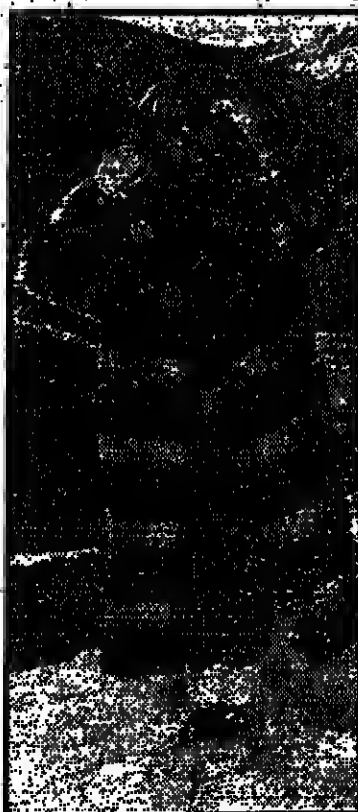
of the most challenging ski areas in the Alps and of the purpose-built resorts it is one of the prettiest, scrambling up a steep south-west-facing slope and with even the newest buildings in chalet style.

It's also the kind of place where you feel comfortable in the sort of apres-ski clothes that can double for winter city wear here: this year, big soft coats, best in bold checks and voluminous in shape, over sleek pants and soft, bright sweaters.

Accessories have a fifties air: snoods, cowls and berets, with sunglasses — black and mysterious or aviator-style — de rigueur in even the weakest sunshine. Grip-sole boots are essential if you value unbroken limbs: this year's are low and chunky and uncompromisingly white or black.

This look is right for Verbier's smarter apres-ski haunts such as the Milk Bar, famous for patisserie and hot chocolate with whipped cream in self-indulgent bowls. It is also right for some of the more ethnic restaurants like Au Vieux Velais (where two courses of dried mountain ham and wonderful fondue or raclette, plus wine, are excellent value at about £8).

But you will want something greater if you try the delights of the sophisticated restaurant at the Rosalp Hotel. Owner Roland Pirox has turned eating into a sublime gastronomic experience and has thus gained himself three stars from Gault-Millau, the famous French gourmet magazine. Eight sumptuous courses will set you back £40. But what a way to celebrate Christmas!



From left: Huge, mohair blanket coat in black and white checks £180, brushed-cotton trousers in cerise with fine black and white pinstripes £43, both by Wendy Dagworthy from Harvey Nichols, London SW1; Liberty, London W1; end, Hobbs branches. Toning multi-coloured mohair sweater by Street Clothes £55, cerise cowl headress £5-95, both from Fenwick,

London W1. White apres-ski boots with grey lacing by Tecnica £33-50, from Alpine Sports, Kensington High Street, London W8. White, padded cotton jacket with clip fastenings £27-99, matching padded pants £22-99, both from Sole branches. Hand-knit reindeer and snowflake motif sweater in off-white and charcoal with bright flecks, by

Molto, £130 from Jones, King's Road, London SW3; Ice, St. Christopher's Place, London W1 and Warehouse of Glasgow. Pende earmuffs £4-95 and Fair Isle gloves £3-45, both from Fenwick.

Chunky wool car-coat in black and chestnut dogstooth check £109, plain black wool-mix trousers £59, black

and chestnut Nordic-style shawl-collared sweater in wool and angora mix £59, all from Alexon branches. Black beret by Kangol £4-95, cream gloves £2-95, both from Fenwick. Black neck-cowl £7-99 from C. & A. branches. Thirties earrings by Pollini from a selection at Scruples, Beauchamp Place, London SW3 and Liberty.



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Pledge on famine aid as Minister sees 'Belsen' babies

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

SKELETAL babies and children were shown to Mr John Stanley, Armed Forces Minister, when he visited a hospital in an Ethiopian famine area over the weekend. "This is worse than anything in Belsen or Buchenwald," said Squadron leader Dr Keith Croft, medical officer of the RAF detachment, who accompanied him.

After his three-day tour Mr Stanley said: "Undoubtedly it is going to be necessary to maintain a high level of famine relief aid in Ethiopia both on the food side and the medical side right through 1985."

"The British Government is going to be making a significant contribution to that."

It was in the north Ethiopian town of Makale that Mr Stanley saw the "Belsen" babies. He flew there in a RAF Hercules C-130 from the Red Sea port of Assab with a load of Canadian wheat.

Screaming with pain

In Makale he visited an International Red Cross children's feeding centre, a camp containing more than 16,000 famine victims, and the hospital where an Ethiopian paediatrician Dr Berhane Endeshaw described a series of children, third or quarter of their correct weight, thin malnourished and weak to stand up.

All would need a year's intensive feeding as inpatients.



in the hospital to have a chance of recovery, the doctor said. Squadron Leader Croft examined some of the children as the Ethiopian doctor helped them up. They were screaming and crying with pain.

"I have never seen anything like this," Squadron Leader Croft said. "They have obviously not eaten for a very long time."

10,000 live in open

At the nearby Red Cross feeding centre Mr Stanley saw scores of happier, smiling children on their way to recovery. One child was yelling as nurses painted his body with a treatment for lice and scabies.

At the camp, the Minister was told 10,000 people were living in the open. Mr Fekadu chief administrator of Tigray region, said plastic sheeting for cover was of no help because there were no poles available to support it. "The countryside is completely bare," he said.

Ethiopian relief workers said the death toll at the camp had risen from around five to 16 a day because of pneumonia following the heavy rains last week. Before flying back to Britain

Mr Stanley noted out an expansion of the RAF's role in the famine relief to match an increasing flow of food aid.

He said in Addis Ababa that the two RAF Hercules ferrying food and relief supplies to famine victims were a substantial contribution from Britain's fleet of 60 Hercules which had the Falklands airbridge and other tasks around the world.

No view had yet been reached about whether the three months period for which the aircraft were being provided by Britain should be extended beyond February. The Government would be considering the balance between airfreight and transport by road, which carried the bulk of food supplies and was the most cost-effective way to distribute grain around the country. It would also be considering the overall availability of aircraft.

Mr Stanley added: "Following the British Government's decision to bring in the RAF here a lot of other governments have followed suit and there are a number of governments which are still considering whether to send aircraft here."

"So we haven't reached anything like the maximum potential amount of air resources."

An official delegation from Canada, donor of food aid to Ethiopia, spoke strongly yesterday in support of long-term development assistance for the Marxist military regime.

"You can't feed people this year and have them starve next year," Mr David MacDonald, Canadian Government emergency co-ordinator, for relief in Africa and leader of the delegation, said in Addis Ababa.

Western countries cut off bilateral development aid to Ethiopia after it joined the Soviet camp in 1977.

'Sold in markets'

Mr MacDonald said investigations were being made about reports of relief food being sold in the markets. He had personally seen empty Canadian tin cans which were obviously being resold as bags for other things.

And Mr Stanley, during a visit to a warehouse in the port of Assab, saw a mound of grain from a 27,000 ton cargo brought by the Ethiopian government to feed the nine million population of Addis Ababa being placed in bags originally used for famine relief grain from the E.C.

Ethiopian officials explained that the E.C. bags were being used because the grain had come in bulk and no other bags were available. "We cannot make bags in Ethiopia because we do not have the material," an official said.



Children huddled in blankets as they wait for food supplies at a relief camp in Ethiopia.

'Slavery' of workers who go unpaid

By KEN POTTINGER in Lisbon

TRADE UNIONS call it a scandal worse than slavery. The Government admits it is embarrassing.

More than 150,000 Portuguese workers are facing Christmas with salaries in arrears, or simply unpaid, some for as long as a year. Yet they stay in the severe economic crisis.

The reason most commonly invoked is that the Government is trying to save money by cutting wages. Estimates of amounts owing and the number of workers affected vary, but the plight appears to touch about 500 companies in the private and public sectors whose total debts to workers are around £50 million.

Over the weekend tens of thousands of members of the Portuguese General Confederation of Workers marched through Lisbon to draw attention to their difficulties, which they say are unparalleled in recent European labour history.

A Confederation spokesman told The Daily Telegraph that the non-payment of wages was worse than slavery. "At least slave owners were obliged to feed their workers," he said. "Many of our members are going hungry."

Last week the Socialist-led coalition Government of Prime Minister Soares moved that unpaid workers in companies whose activities were completely paralysed could draw unemployment benefits. But union critics say this affects a tiny proportion of the total.

Senior Joao Correia, a union lawyer, told me: "There is no lack of laws to enforce the payment of wages to workers. The problem lies in getting speedy court action."

"It normally takes between two and three years for cases to be heard and what worker without money for food, rent or clothing can afford to wait that long?"

The Trade Union Confederation has intervened in a number of cases and has even laid criminal charges against the Government's labour inspectorate, which is supposed to see that labour contracts and conditions are adhered to—in other words, that workers are paid.

Austerity measures

The Confederation has also invoked the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, yet the problem remains unsolved.

The situation is closely linked to rigid dismissal laws which prevent employers firing workers individually.

The situation is not expected to improve in the short term, while the economy remains depressed and affected by the 15-month-old austerity programme imposed by the International Monetary Fund to reduce a massive deficit in external borrowings.

One group of citizens, however, has no complaints. The nation's 250 Parliamentary Deputies are considering proposals to give themselves a 52 per cent raise, bringing monthly wages to £450, or six times the national minimum.

Previous similar proposals have always drawn unanimous support from the House and few expect things to be different this time.

SNOW HAMBERS ASBESTOS HUNT

Snow falling in parts of South Yorkshire has hampered efforts by squads of workmen trying to locate and remove asbestos traces around Rotherham and Doncaster. The asbestos was carried by the wind from a warehouse fire in Sheffield, eight miles away, on Friday.

Thousands of children were told to stay away from schools until the asbestos was all found and removed. Playgrounds and playing fields in about 30 schools are known to be contaminated.

ITV blows whistle on 'World of Sport'

By ROBIN STRINGER TV and Radio Correspondent

ITV's Saturday sports programme, "World of Sport," will be replaced next autumn after a run of 20 years and the amount of time devoted to sports coverage on Saturday afternoons will be halved.

The present four or five hours of sport will be reduced to two, except on special occasions, and the emphasis will be on live sport.

Among the attractions will be live coverage of domestic football, the contract which ITV wrested from the BBC last July at a cost of £10,500,000 for the next five years beginning in April.

The contract is one of several factors to have influenced John Bromley, chairman of ITV sport, and other ITV chiefs in their decision to reshape Saturday afternoon coverage.

Declining audiences for "World of Sport" from an average 10 years ago of 4,500,000 to about 3,100,000 have persuaded them that the public have lost their enthusiasm for recorded sport.

The decision also coincides with the switching of "World of Sport" to Channel 4. The move is now being worked out.

Another important consideration was the increasing amount of sport being shown on Sunday afternoons. As one senior ITV executive explained: "You can't have 'World of Sport' on Saturday and Sunday."

Mr Bromley said last night: "No final decision has been taken on dropping the 'World of Sport' title or on the final format of the new Saturday programme." It is expected that presenters, such as Dickie Davies, who was voted Sports Presenter of the Year by the television and radio industry last year, will continue with ITV sport if they so wish.

Breakfast TV

The BBC, which is seeking an increase in the colour television licence fee, from £46 to £55, last night denied a suggestion that it might be considering ending "Breakfast Time" as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

"Breakfast Time" has been a success from Day One," said a BBC spokesman. "It remains a very effective service to our viewers and it is an integral part of our news and information service as the coverage of the Brighton bombing recently demonstrated."

Far from ending the programme, the BBC wanted to build on it to provide "a sensible all-day service on BBC1 in due course."

Another denial came yesterday from the Prime Minister's office of a report suggesting that Mrs Thatcher favoured the granting of a licence fee of £55, fixed only for a year, while the BBC decided whether it would agree to take advertising or to cut its service.

'GRANDAD' ACTOR DIES AT 69

Lennard Pearce, who played Grandad in the BBC television comedy "Only Fools and Horses," died aged 69 on Saturday, 10 days after starting filming for a new series of the programme. The new series has now been postponed.

"Only Fools and Horses" earned the BBC the situation comedy award in the TV and Radio Industries Club presentation in London last April. Mr Pearce, who had suffered from high blood pressure, said the programme's success had given him "a new lease of life."

WOMAN HURT IN SOCCER FRACAS

Two Bristol City supporters were detained after trouble following the Third Division game in Bourmouthe on Saturday. A woman walking home after watching the game with her husband, was attacked and received a black eye and other injuries, and was detained overnight in hospital.

During the game missiles which were hurled on to the pitch included a billiard ball and a splintered length of wood which narrowly missed a linesman.

STUN GUN WORRIES POLICE

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in New York

DALLAS police are using "stun guns" the size of an electric razor as a non-lethal method of subduing suspects who struggle when being arrested.

But the hand-held high-technology weapons, which disrupt the nervous system by causing temporary weakness, were deemed in New York to be likely to prove "more trouble than they were worth" and were rejected.

A Police Department spokesman said yesterday that senior New York officers were worried about the effects electrical shocks might have on suspects with bad hearts or of generally nervous dispositions.

The gun works by shooting out an electrical discharge which interrupts messages from the brain to the muscles, causing the muscles to relax.

Its manufacturer, Nova Technologies Inc., of Austin, Texas, claims that a three-second discharge from the gun applied to a suspect's abdomen, would cause knees to buckle and leave the victim disorientated for 10 to 15 seconds—enough time to clip on the handcuffs.

Lawsuit fear

But police doctors in New York issued a warning that the gun might prove dangerous to people in poor health, especially anyone with a heart problem.

If a suspect died from the electrical shock, the Police Department might be faced with a multi-million dollar lawsuit, irrespective of whether the suspect turned out to be guilty or innocent.

"I think they were worried most that people might get killed instead of getting arrested," the New York spokesman said.

Nova Technologies claims that the gun is an answer, even to people with heart problems. Dallas police have agreed to continue experimenting with the gun. Police Captain Rick Stone described the effect as "not a painful experience, but not a pleasant one."

HOODED RAPIST ATTACKS GIRLS AT KNIFEPOINT

Police are hunting a hooded rapist who held up two 16-year-old girls at knife-point early yesterday and forced them into a field where one was raped and the other sexually assaulted.

They were walking home from a disco along the A41 from Berkhamstead to Hemel Hempstead, Herts, when they were attacked by the man described as between 5ft 10in and 6ft 2in tall, stockily built with a "local" accent.

Det. Chief Supt. Tony Hill, in Charge of the Investigation, said the description matched that of a 15-year-old girl a few miles away on Nov. 25.

Fowler attacks drug firms over 'fear' campaign

By DAVID FLETCHER Health Services Correspondent

A COUNTER-ATTACK has been launched by Mr Fowler, Social Services Secretary, to criticisms of the Government's plan to limit the number of drugs doctors may prescribe on the N.H.S.

In a letter to all M.P.s, he attacks the pharmaceutical industry's advertising campaign against the plan as "seriously misleading," and says it raises "unnecessary fears."

Roche Products is singled out for plying "highly tendentious questions" about the proposals in a letter it sent to M.P.s.

Mr Fowler says that only 10 per cent of drugs are affected by his proposals. They include "home remedies" such as cough medicine, tonics, laxatives, minor pain killers, indigestion remedies and low dose vitamins—and tranquilisers or sedatives.

Although many brand-name products in these groups would no longer be available on the N.H.S., there would still be a range of drugs which doctors could prescribe.

He dismisses as nonsense claims that his proposals will result in a two-tier health system with wealthy patients being able to buy privately the drugs of their choice.

Simply expensive

"There is no question of a second-class service," Mr Fowler said. "The Government has decided there is no reason for the N.H.S. to provide every drug which the pharmaceutical industry chooses to put on the market."

He says that if research finds new medicines which offer real improvements in treatment, it will be possible to add them to the N.H.S. list. "The N.H.S. is £1,500 million and Britain is virtually the only country in the world not to impose some kind of limit on the number of drugs which can be prescribed at taxpayers' expense."

Mr Fowler also denies drug company claims that their business will be severely affected by the changes, or that the plan will inhibit investment for research.

He says that if research finds new medicines which offer real improvements in treatment, it will be possible to add them to the N.H.S. list.

The annual cost of drugs to the N.H.S. is £1,500 million and Britain is virtually the only country in the world not to impose some kind of limit on the number of drugs which can be prescribed at taxpayers' expense.

Editorial Comment—P10

BIG BOND WINNERS

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bonds prizes are: £100,000: 5DN 274243 (Hertfordshire); £50,000: 3DK 989078 (Cambridgeshire); £25,000: 24AL 321478 (Berkshire).

Air chief's will

Air Chief Marshal Sir William Lawrence, Mary Macdonald, of Onslow Gardens, South Kensington, who commanded the RAF in the Far East during the Cyprus Eoka rebellion, from 1958 to 1962, left £199,455 net (£243,248 gross).

Latest Wills—P8

LEFT £113,570

J. B. Priestley, the Bradford-born writer and broadcaster who died on Aug. 14, aged 89, left £113,570 net (£117,501 gross) in his will published at the weekend.

He left his property to his wife Jacquetta Hawkes, the writer and archaeologist, and to his children by previous marriages.

Editorial Comment—P10

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Extradition deal with Spain 'by the summer'

By TIM BROWN in Madrid

BOTH British and Spanish diplomats and legal experts were confident at the weekend that agreement is now in sight for a new extradition treaty between the two countries to go into force in the summer.

FEW STORES DEFY SUNDAY TRADE LAW

By BRENDA PARRY

THE pre-Christmas rebellion by big stores against the much-publicised Sunday trading laws appeared to have largely "fizzled out" yesterday.

After the Audit Report last month recommended the scrapping of the legal restrictions it was widely expected that all those opposed to the law would open their doors.

But the Habitat chain, owned by Sir Terence Conran, and Debenhams, who had both publicised their intention to open on the two Sundays before Christmas, are now in a legal action by local authorities, and reversed their decision last Wednesday.

Woolworths, who own the B and Q chain of do-it-yourself shops, also said on Thursday they would abandon opening on Sundays.

Sainsbury's, however, opened 13 of their 23 Homebase stores sticking to the policy they adopted three years ago that they would open wherever the local authority was not opposed.

One of the do-it-yourself shops owned by W. H. Smith's, Do-It-All, opened in Chesham Hill, Manchester, which has a high Jewish population.

And in Plymouth, a city centre branch of Halfords, the motor parts specialists, reported good trading when it opened this morning.

Two days of "technical talks" at diplomatic and legal level ended in Madrid on Friday during which several major problems were overcome and substantial progress made in an atmosphere described by one member of the British team as "very cordial."

The next round of talks are scheduled to be held in London early in the New Year and both sides are optimistic that agreement is near for the new treaty, which will replace the old legislation cancelled by Spain six years ago.

The treaty will mean the end of Spain being used as a safe haven from justice by scores of men wanted in Britain in connection with major crimes.

Once the new agreement has been signed it will have to go through legal and parliamentary procedures in both countries which is expected to take several months.

In a second major move last week to stop Spain being used by foreign criminal elements the Spanish Cabinet approved a new alien draft law giving courts sweeping new powers to expel "undesirables."

The legislation, which has to be approved by the Spanish Parliament, gives judges the right to deport foreigners who are illegally in the country, are engaged in crime or are considered to be undesirable.

BEEFING IT UP

Ireland now supplies 12 per cent of all the beef eaten in the United Kingdom, the Irish Meat Board said yesterday.

FEW STORES DEFY SUNDAY TRADE LAW

By BRENDA PARRY

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INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

City Editor

Andreas Whittam Smith

Daily Telegraph
City Office
112 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4P 4BS
Tel: 01-353 4242Navy man
gets the
hi tech team
ship-shape

ROUNDING UP eleven of America's fiercest competitors in an attempt to set up a joint research project was a bit like asking Republicans and Democrats to agree on a budget. But as President of Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation, Ray Inman has achieved the previously unimaginable in just one year.

Mr Inman, a former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency has steered America's first joint commercial venture in high technology through its first rocky year. He presides over a \$65 million-a-year budget and a company that has as its members some of America's mightiest corporations — Control Data, Digital Equipment, Honeywell, Lockheed, Boeing and National Semiconductor.

The brain-child of Control Data is chairman William Norris. The corporation was created to help computer and microelectronics companies meet the challenge from the government supported research and development programmes in Japan and Western Europe. By pooling resources — money, technology and scientists — for long-range projects, Mr Norris believed the United States could maintain its edge in the technology race that is rapidly changing industrial economies.

Americans are so preoccupied with the threat that the Japanese will do to the United States

THE
AMERICAN
INTERVIEW

in computers what they did in cars and television that the government relaxed formally stringent anti-trust laws and gave M.C.T. the go-ahead to set up a joint commercial research venture.

According to Mr Inman the easy part was getting government approval. The hard part was sitting down with companies not in the habit of sharing closely-guarded technological developments and working out a long-term plan for the corporation.

"The first thing we had to deal with was the problem that while the companies had agreed on how to finance the operations, they had defined the programmes," said Mr Inman. "They knew that at the corporation they wouldn't have to argue with a company's controller for continued funding, wouldn't get pulled off of some long-range project to work on this year's company product in trouble. Therefore the pool of talent applying to be part of the corporation from all over the country simply turned out in a good many cases to be better than what was offered by the companies."

The corporation has four main areas of research—semiconductor packaging, software technology, computer-aided design for large-scale integration and advanced computer architecture. The latter which in layman's terms means artificial intelligence and super-computer research takes up half of the \$34 million budget.

What is not yet clear is whether United States companies will take that new technology, incorporate it into their business strategy and take part of it to the market place at a much faster rate with quality control.

Lauren Chambliss

Hambro Life for
requote after
BAT £664m bid

By JOHN RUDOFSKY

HAMBRO LIFE Assurance shares are expected to return from suspension this morning following the £664 million bid agreed over the weekend for BAT Industries.

The shares were halted after a strong rise at 4.55p but BAT has struck an agreed deal at 55.5p a share. As an alternative BAT is also offering a 12½ p.c. unsecured loan stock 2003/08 to shareholders.

The news is likely to fire an already lively sector with recent share price rises from British Assurance and Refuge.

Britannia Arrow has long been a speculator's favourite; even M & G out of the Kleinwort Benson stable and Robert Fleming's Save & Prosper must have been targets for the strong list of buyers on both sides of the Atlantic who may follow BAT's example.

BAT's chairman Patrick Sheehy said yesterday he went for Hambro Life, Britain's highest unit-linked life company with £5.5 billion fund under management, to expand the range of financial services the group can offer to individuals.

He is not interested in financial concerns serving the corporate customer, but in banking, money-raising operations and stockbroking in the short term.

Mr Sheehy confirmed he first secured the agreement of Hambro Life's Mark Weinberg, the 52-year-old chairman who built up the business over 13 years then won over Charterhouse J. Rothschild which has 24.9 p.c. and Guardian Royal

Exchange with 10 p.c. before BAT then returned to round off the deal with directors holding acceptances up to 38.5 p.c.

Hambro Life's fate was sealed when its planned £1 billion merger with Charterhouse J. Rothschild failed last June. Mr Weinberg's long-standing deputy Sydney Lipworth, both of whom join the main BAT board, admitted yesterday Hambro Life had no ambitions that it could not see through itself.

But ever since the summer deal with Charterhouse J. Rothschild collapsed there has been a cloud over the group's shares. "This removes the uncertainty for shareholders and BAT will be able to provide us with any new capital we might need," said Mr Lipworth. But he agreed there is no "hit list" of businesses to buy.

Astonishingly this deal means BAT can now boast both the largest and the second-largest takeover in British corporate history. The £388 million it paid out for Eagle Star in January crashed through all records and this latest deal tops the next-highest bid battle BAT's takeover of Thomas Tilling.

This offer will take BAT's debt/equity ratio back above 60 p.c. where it was immediately after the Eagle Star deal.

Mr Weinberg will remain chairman and chief executive of Hambro Life and expects to be left with an independent role of autonomous role. There will be no merger with Eagle Star since each has its own specialised financial products.

Worst ever month
for National Savings

By RICHARD NORTHEDEGE

NATIONAL SAVINGS suffered its worst month ever in November, with withdrawals from accounts exceeding new savings by a record £61.7 million last month — mainly because of massive encashments of grannie bonds once the annual bonus was paid.

An improvement in the incentives for those who retained index-linked certificates seems to have proved insufficient to prevent the huge withdrawals.

Only £11 million of new index-linked certificates—known as grannie bonds—were sold in November, a far cry from the £150 million of certificates cashed them in.

The effect more than wiped out the net sales of other National Savings products, leaving total withdrawals of £472 million exceeding the total new sales of £410 million.

Bonuses on grannie bonds not encashed, and thus credited to investment holdings, together with other income, provided the net technically increased the value of investments by a record £269 million, giving an overall net £207 million increase to State funding.

This contribution is less than

The Chancellor has abandoned any plans he might have had to tax the lump sums Civil Servants and others receive on retirement. But the lump sum is only the tip of the pensions iceberg, writes Clifford German.

LUMPS IN LAWSON'S THROAT

MORE than one hundred Members of Parliament signed the Early Day motion opposing any move to tax the lump-sum payments many pensioners are entitled to take on retirement. It became a minor issue in the South-East by-election last week, and the Chancellor responded to pressure on Thursday by promising not to tax lump sums related to service already earned. So there is no need for anyone to take early retirement in an attempt to beat the next Budget.

But as a back bench revolt the pensions issue has fallen well short of the fury Sir Keith Joseph aroused with his plans to make middle class parents pay more for their children's university education, and the Chancellor has refused to promise to exempt lump-sum entitlements for future service or to guarantee other aspects of the pension industry's continued tax immunity in his search for new sources of revenue.

He may simply be standing on his dignity. But he may also be testing the strength of the opposition to see what and where its strengths are. He may well be working on the principle that he was able to get away with abolishing tax relief on life assurance premiums on policies taken out after the last Budget, and given the traditional public apathy he might do the same with pensions.

The debate goes back to September last year when the Inland Revenue produced a paper outlining the possible yield of taxing the pensions industry. Taxing lump sums at 50 p.c. could yield about £250 million a year, and a 30 p.c. tax on the dividend income of existing pension funds could generate as much as £2.25 billion a year, a tempting plum for a Chancellor known to be searching for additional income to allow him to cut income tax without inflating the budget deficit.

Apart from the practical attraction of a new source of revenue, the Chancellor could well argue that continuing tax exemption for pension funds actively discriminates against self reliance, positively encourages mass dependence on institutions to take care of the future, and is a result of joint plans for making as all self-reliance, capitalistic and directly involved in the success of the country's economic performance.

In particular tax exemption for pension funds is unfair to those

of us who like to provide for our old age by investing savings from taxed income to generate investment income which is promptly taxed a second time. Supporters of tax exemption for pension funds can only counter by arguing that pensions are a form of deferred pay or possibly a form of insurance rather than an investment, although even that latter argument looks weak after the 1985 Budget.

The best practical argument against abolishing the tax advantages of pensions funds is, however, the analogy with tax relief on mortgages. If one goes, the case for the other is seriously weakened. But while one survives the other ought to be safe. And Mrs Thatcher once again made it clear this week that mortgage tax relief is safe with her. Therefore Nigel nibbles away at its intellectual foundations at his peril.

If the Chancellor does decide to press on, however, there are several ways of achieving what he wants. The obvious argument in favour of taxing lump sums is that they effectively escape all direct taxation while actual pensions are taxed as income when they are received. Supporters of tax free lump sums have to fall back on practical arguments. Many people have made plans which depend on their tax-free lump sums to pay off mortgages or to buy businesses, and those over 50 might not owe have time to top up their contributions even if they were allowed to.

payroll tax

Taxing employees' contributions alone would lead to strong pressure to shift all future contributions onto the employer, making most new company pension schemes non-contributory. Taxing employees on pension contributions from the employer as if they were perks would be even more unpopular and would probably bring most company schemes to a halt. Making employers' contributions to pension funds non-deductible as a business expense would treat them worse than other business expenses and would effectively act as a payroll tax, which would inevitably increase unemployment. Determined employers could respond by ceasing to fund their pensions and paying future pensions out of future income, but that would make pensions much more insecure if the companies went out of business.

That leaves taxing the investment income of the funds themselves. It has the practical advantage that the man in the street might be just as likely to blame the pension funds for any increase in contributions or reduction in benefits which it caused. The Chancellor would certainly claim that pension funds have enjoyed dividends and profits well in excess of inflation over the past five years largely as a result of the Government's own policies.

But the possibility that the Chancellor and the Social Services Secretary are getting their act together for a sweeping reform of the tax treatment of pensions and/or savings as a package cannot be ruled out.

Phillip Cnappell, the director of Morgan Grenfell who is also a leading advocate of a wholesale switch from company earnings-related pensions to personal portable pensions linked only to investment performance, made it quite clear at the recent conference of the Institute for Fiscal Studies that he would like to see all tax exemptions swept away and pension contributions and investments all treated as forms of savings. His radical proposals seemed to make little impact on Mr Fowler over the past year. But he could still have convinced the Chancellor to take a hand in a reform which would at a stroke change the entire future of the pensions industry. State and private.

The Lombard Street column by Christopher Fildes will resume next week.

Bath snubs
Beazer

C. H. BEAZER's £48m bid for Bath and Portland has met with little success so far. This morning Brian Beazer is expected to announce few acceptances and will probably extend for another two weeks.

The stock market is hoping for higher terms with the Bath and Portland share price closing on Friday at 27½ against the shares and cash deal worth 23½ a share. Modestly higher terms are likely but not yet.

Hang Seng up

THE HANG SENG index closed 1.8 p.c. up on the week at 142.98 largely as a result of confirmation that Hutchison Whampoa had made the HK\$390m (£41.30m) premium payment on the Hong Kong Home Dockyard site in Hong Kong. It also became clear last week that the company had completed HK\$200m (£21m) of infrastructure works on the site.

'Jock' quits Laing

I. C. "JOCK" DOUGLAS is resigning as an executive and a shareholder of Laing & Crick, a share of the end of the financial year and but will remain as a consultant.

Mr Douglas was the senior partner of stockbrokers McAnally Montgomery, which merged with Laing & Crickbank two years ago. Earlier this year Mercantile House bought a 29.5 p.c. stake in Laing and will now own a remainder on the same terms when Stock Exchange rules allow.

Record forecast
for shopbuilders

ORDERS for commercial building work will "increase to new heights in each of the three years to 1986," says a report today from the National Economic Development Office.

It says the construction industry is having a far better recovery than forecast six months ago, with factories, offices and shops leading the way.

It was expected that construction growth would have a 2.5 p.c. growth in business this year, but it now looks like being 4 p.c.

Growth rate in commercial work for free-enterprise is expected to be 9 p.c. followed by a 4 p.c. rise in volume next year and a further increase of 3 p.c. in 1986.

"Construction forecasts 1984-85-86," £10 NEDO Books, London.

Property prospects

THERE ARE SIGNS that major American real estate brokers are vying for the British market and there is speculation that one of the largest United States groups is poised to take over one of our biggest house sales companies.

It seems 71 p.c. more electronics graduates will be needed in five years' time, according to one survey. Plessey says it has room for 700 more specialists than it has; Marconi has gone as far as Australia and New Zealand in search of engineering staff; and GEC says it needs several hundred more electronic technologists.

The M.S.C. has found maintenance and servicing of computers is running into acute shortages, leading to a bidding up of salaries. The overall numbers needed are small — perhaps only a few hundred nationally — but the gap is significant. Similarly small in numbers, but perhaps even more significant is the shortage of computer and data designers.

The implication of all this is that computer makers and users will both find it steadily harder to recruit the right sort of staff, and even when they finally find them the cost will be high and rising. As shortages are not enough qualified people to go round some companies will either have to do without or run into trouble through inadequate staffing. It would be wise to start planning or training now.

By Michael Beckett

Thomas Cook set to boost Midland

By ANNE SEGALL

THOMAS COOK, now owned by branches in Britain during the coming year, taking the total record contribution to profits to more than £300.

New branches are being opened, many providing just a travel agency service while others will concentrate on travellers cheque and foreign exchange facilities. The rest will be full service Cook branches covering all facilities.

A major success story for Cook over the past two years has been business travel with sales in November and December already running at levels nearly 40 p.c. higher than the same months last year. The travellers cheque and foreign exchange operations are, however, still the key profit-earners.

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CBI signals output rise

INDICATIONS of a pick-up in manufacturing output and a renewed burst of price rises over the next four months emerge from the Confederation of British Industry's latest monthly industrial trend survey today.

Manufacturers expect output to increase at the levels achieved during the summer after an autumn dip. The number of companies planning price rises is the second-highest this year.

David Wrigglesworth, chairman of the C.B.I.'s economic situation committee, said: "Output appears to have stabilised at the fairly steady increase seen

over the last few months although growth is likely to be slower than in the earlier part of the year."

The survey, based on replies from 1,544 manufacturers, shows 30 p.c. anticipate an increase in output volume up to the middle of April and 12 p.c. a fall.

A total of 42 p.c. of companies are predicting price rises and 3 p.c. a cut. Eighteen per cent say order books are above normal levels and 27 p.c. say they are lower than normal, while 19 p.c. report export orders above usual levels and 26 p.c. below.

COMPUTERS

Systems in search of people

NEW business and new technology were to have been the country's salvation, said Dr Douglas Eyelons, director general of the Computing Services Association, have hit electronics. Yet his members need graduates not necessarily with specialist degrees but with experience of computers.

Computing services grew by 20 p.c. this year and the companies claim that if they could get the staff, it could have been faster—perhaps 30 p.c. The dangers are that exports are being held back, there is not enough import substitution, and users are not implementing information technology fast enough, said Dr Eyelons.

Other countries like the United States were installing electronics faster and although the initial impact is to displace people, the increased efficiency is generating greater jobs over all, he added. Britain could be losing that race.

Computer users themselves are experiencing similar shortages. In even relatively small companies, there is a need for specialist skills in planning and programming. "The scale of change should be amenable to retraining," said Mr Wiltshire. Unfortunately there is little indication that pronouncements from the committee under Mr Butcher, Junior Industry Minister, or the studies from the National Economic Develop-

ment Office and the National Computer Centre are having such a practical effect. The only identifiable initiative is the Women Into Science and Engineering publicity campaign.

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This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

The Felixstowe Dock
and Railway Company

(Incorporated in England on 19th July, 1975, by Special Act of Parliament)

Placing of
200,000 Preference Units at £101 each
payable as to £51 on acceptance
and £50 on 28th June, 1985.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for all of the Preference Units to be admitted to the Official List.

Share Capital Issued and to be issued:	
£3,492,150 nominal of Ordinary Stock (including premiums)	4,731,300
20,000,000 6.5 per cent. Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares 2000-2010 of £1 each ("New Preference Shares")	20,000,000
200,000 Cumulative Redeemable Participating Preference Shares 2000-2010 of £1 each ("New Participating Shares")	200,000
£6,500,000 nominal of 9.5 per cent. Cumulative Redeemable Preference Stock, 1984 (redeemable on 31st December, 1984)	6,500,000
	31,431,300

A Preference Unit comprises one New Participating Share (which will be fully paid on acceptance) and 100 New Preference Shares (payable as to 50p on acceptance and as to the balance on 28th June, 1985).

In accordance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange 20,000 Preference Units are available in the market on the date of publication of this advertisement.

Particulars of the Preference Units will be circulated in the Extel Statistical Services and copies of the Particulars may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday, except Saturdays and public holidays, up to 8th January, 1985 from:

Fielding, Newson-Smith & Co.
Garard House
31 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7DX

17th December, 1984.

Handwritten note: 100-150

Clothing jobs pay cost of threadbare deal

THE principle of free trade is more honoured in the breach than in the observance, and it is not hard to see why. Governments in every country are confronted by powerful and clamorous lobbies clamouring for controls on imports to protect jobs.

The employment costs of competition from abroad on particular industries and regions and the political perils of ignoring them, are plainly visible. The losers from protection have no such doubt. They include other industries who must pay extra for their inputs and exporters whose markets overseas are constrained because those countries cannot earn more foreign exchange, as well as consumers who have to pay higher prices in the shops. But their losses, however large in total, are thinly spread and hard to identify, which is a poor recipe for successful political mobilisation.

The power of the producer lobby reaches its apotheosis in agriculture and the scandals of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Community. But not far behind follows textiles and clothing, where the industry exerts an influence quite disproportionate to its economic significance.

Textiles and clothing are the only manufactured goods to be specifically exempted from the world trade rules laid down by GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), which stipulates equal treatment between countries.

They have their own regime—the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA)—which limits low-cost imports from the developing world into the majority of industrial countries, including the EEC.

The present MFA expires in 1986, and negotiations on what should succeed it begin next year. That is the context for last week's revealing report on the MFA's impact in Britain by Prof. Aubrey Silverston of Imperial College, London, commissioned by the Department for Trade and Industry.

For all its exemplary caution, Prof. Silverston's analysis leads to the inescapable conclusion that Britain would gain from a phasing-out of the MFA. Prices would be lower so consumers would save money. Economic output would be higher, partly because of the boost to domestic

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY



By Frances Williams

consumption, and partly because exports would be more competitive. This would mean additional jobs in other industries and services, at least enough to outweigh the loss of jobs in the textile and clothing industry itself, and probably a good deal more.

Of course, the precise arithmetic can be challenged—but the basic argument surely cannot. The record suggests that the MFA has failed to protect either jobs or market share. In the past 10 years, employment in textiles and clothing has halved, compared with a drop of one-quarter of manufacturing as a whole.

This in turn was due less to competition from imports than to rapid productivity growth, followed by the slump. As for market share, restrictions on low-cost imports from developing countries have simply diverted trade to unrestricted (and higher-cost) suppliers from the EEC and latterly from Spain and Portugal.

Import penetration has increased from less than 10 p.c. in the early 1960s, when MFA restrictions were first introduced, to 35 p.c. today.

In the MFA's favour, Prof. Silverston argues that it has facilitated much-needed investment and expansion in the industry, mainly through raising prices and so profits. But this process has not been help-

ful to jobs. Nor, after nearly 25 years of restraints, can the industry plead it needs still more time to adjust behind tariff walls.

If the MFA were phased out over four to five years, import prices might fall by 10 p.c. and prices in the shops by 5 p.c., the Silverston report estimates. This would represent a gain to consumers of about £500 million a year (at 1982 prices).

At the moment, Britain's consumers, including the poorest, effectively make a gift of more than £500 million to exporting countries by way of higher prices, with the remainder going to domestic producers.

On the other hand, abandonment of the MFA would cost the textile and clothing industry jobs—perhaps 10,000 to 50,000 over the next few years, though this compares with projected losses of up to 150,000 by the early 1990s, whatever happens to the MFA. Some marginal firms will be driven out of business.

But at minimum, the consumer is paying more than £10,000 for the privilege of protecting each textile job, and some economists would put the figure much higher. This is twice average annual earnings in the industry, and tops the £10,000 limit on cost per job the Government has built into its new regional aid package.

The implication must be that protecting the textile and clothing industry does not represent good value for money. More jobs could be created elsewhere for the same outlay.

It would be wrong to gloss over the real hardships that will be caused in the Midlands and North of England by the further rundown of the industry. Displaced workers may not necessarily be in the right place or have the right skills for other jobs springing up elsewhere.

That is why Prof. Silverston's recommendation for special government action to help bring new jobs to textile and clothing areas makes sense.

But even with such compensation, Britain would be better off without the MFA. The Government should grasp the political nettle and tell the EEC, which will negotiate on its behalf, that it wants the next MFA to be the last.

"The Multi-Fibre Arrangement and the United Kingdom Economy," by Prof. E. A. Silverston (HMSO, £4.80).

ICI tones up for the 900p ascent

QUESTOR David Brewerton

STAND by for a surge in the price of Imperial Chemical Industries, already up from 580p in the summer to 714p on Friday night.

ICI's share price is about to get caught in a two-way squeeze which could easily drive it to 900p—and even then the shares will not be dear.

The first pressure is that the re-rating of the shares, which has already begun, has further to go. Over the past couple of years, ICI has undergone a revolutionary change in management style, exemplified by last week's aggressive purchase of Beatrice Chemicals.

No longer will it be the passive victim of the ups and downs of the heavy chemical cycle. Yes, it is still in heavy chemicals and in the shops by 10 p.c. and prices in the shops by 5 p.c., the Silverston report estimates. This would represent a gain to consumers of about £500 million a year (at 1982 prices).

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The most likely outcome will be that the shares will be repatriated to the United Kingdom to be placed with institutions, although there remains the outside chance that City investors' liquidators will be made an offer for the entire shareholding which they could not refuse.

The saga is taking place at a most interesting stage in Blagden's development. City Investing's stake arose when it exchanged an interest in a jointly owned Blagden subsidiary for shares in Blagden itself.

Had that deal not been struck, Blagden would probably now find itself in the position of having to buy out the City Investing stake in the subsidiary. To the extent, it only has to consider what will happen to a near 30 p.c. equity shareholding.

Blagden is keen to hit the acquisition trail itself, and the market has been standing by for a capital raising. The need to place the City Investing stake does not rule out the issue of more shares in a rights offer—in fact, it makes it easier for parcels of shares of sufficient size to interest institutions to be put together.

Results from Blagden for 1984 are expected at the end of February, and that would be the logical time for the likely share move to be made.

Meanwhile, the shares at 728p stand on a yield of 8.5 p.c. and prospective price/carnings ratio of about nine. One to follow in 1985.

Options with Johnson Group THE TAKEOVER battle by Nottingham Manufacturing Company for control of Johnson Group Cleaners has been more notable for its longevity than for its excitement but it draws to a conclusion this week.

City Investing holds nearly 30 p.c. of the voting equity in Blagden, and that shareholding will have to be disposed of once the liquidation gets under way.

The change that has taken place within the company, and the possibility that the shares are about to be further re-rated following the Beatrice acquisition.

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The implication must be that protecting the textile and clothing industry does not represent good value for money. More jobs could be created elsewhere for the same outlay.

It would be wrong to gloss over the real hardships that will be caused in the Midlands and North of England by the further rundown of the industry. Displaced workers may not necessarily be in the right place or have the right skills for other jobs springing up elsewhere.

That is why Prof. Silverston's recommendation for special government action to help bring new jobs to textile and clothing areas makes sense.

But even with such compensation, Britain would be better off without the MFA. The Government should grasp the political nettle and tell the EEC, which will negotiate on its behalf, that it wants the next MFA to be the last.

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Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe Limited

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Zimbabwe

Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Limited

To all holders of Blocked Assets in Zimbabwe

We wish to remind holders of blocked assets that all application forms to invest in 4% government of Zimbabwe 12/20 year (external) bonds must

GAVASKAR AND AMARNATH DASH ENGLAND HOPES

By MICHAEL CAREY in New Delhi

ENGLAND were permitted a tantalising glimpse of the promised land in the second Test in New Delhi yesterday when hostile bowling by Norman Cowans reduced India to 15 for two, before an unbroken partnership of 113 between Sunil Gavaskar and Mohinder Amarnath enabled them to end the day 17 runs ahead.

The growing assurance of this pair not only denied England another, much-needed breakthrough in the final session, but also emphasised that while the pitch occasionally rewards bowling of all types, a certain amount of quirkish good fortune will be needed to dislodge batsmen intent mainly on survival.

Much may depend on how India negotiate the final day's morning session, when the pitch tends to offer a little more to the quicker bowlers, especially perhaps with today's 8.30 a.m. start.

Evidence of that was acquired first-hand by Robinson yesterday when, having added only three to his admirable 157, he met a ball from Kapil Dev which kicked his glove and ended an innings of some 3½ hours of extraordinary application and concentration which seemed to suggest England had at last discovered another batsman who likes to play Test cricket the old-fashioned way.

By batting throughout on Saturday, when his only blunders were a possible stumping opportunity at 54 and a hard low chance at 158, Robinson enabled his side to overcome the possible frustration of another series of apparently bizarre dismissals at the other end.

These were Lamb's departure, adjudged caught off bat and pad, Gower's lbw and Cowdrey, given out caught at slip when the ball had been hit rather than a bat. On another day all might have enjoyed the benefit of the doubt.

If anything, these episodes only increased Robinson's resolve. After his departure, Robinson steered England 100 ahead, but hopes of the match's earliest end were required to disappear when Sivaramakrishnan wrapped up the innings with four wickets for 11 runs in 25 balls after lunch.

His six wickets left him with 18 in the first over, a phenomenal haul for any bowler, let alone a leg spinner of tender years. He has bowled with an accuracy rare in his type here and, despite the occasional discounting of Gower and Cowdrey, were earned when batsmen were trying to assault

Decision on Allott today

Paul Allott, the England bowler who has been troubled by an undiagnosed back injury, was examined by an orthopaedic surgeon in New Delhi yesterday in the hope of discovering if a problem can be put right to enable him to continue on the tour.

The surgeon's report will be considered by the England selectors today and, after discussions with Lord's, a decision may be made whether Allott stays or if a replacement is sought.

Tony Brown, the England manager, said yesterday: "Obviously, we want Paul to stay and play a part in the tour if possible as long as we can be sure of his fitness."

"It would obviously be preferable to asking for a replacement, who would require some time to become accustomed to the conditions."

"But that is a possibility we cannot rule out, depending on what medical advice we are given."

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Delhi details

INDIA—First Innings: 327 (Kapil Dev 66; R. M. Ellison 446).

Second Innings: 51 (S. M. Gavaskar 30; Norman Cowans 4).

D. E. Voornakker 4; M. E. Amarnath 3; P. S. Srinivasan 2; P. S. Srinivasan 2; P. S. Srinivasan 2.

Total (2 wkts): 128.

Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-21, 3-21, 4-21, 5-21, 6-21, 7-21, 8-21, 9-21, 10-21, 11-21, 12-21, 13-21, 14-21, 15-21, 16-21, 17-21, 18-21, 19-21, 20-21, 21-21, 22-21, 23-21, 24-21, 25-21, 26-21, 27-21, 28-21, 29-21, 30-21, 31-21, 32-21, 33-21, 34-21, 35-21, 36-21, 37-21, 38-21, 39-21, 40-21, 41-21, 42-21, 43-21, 44-21, 45-21, 46-21, 47-21, 48-21, 49-21, 50-21, 51-21, 52-21, 53-21, 54-21, 55-21, 56-21, 57-21, 58-21, 59-21, 60-21, 61-21, 62-21, 63-21, 64-21, 65-21, 66-21, 67-21, 68-21, 69-21, 70-21, 71-21, 72-21, 73-21, 74-21, 75-21, 76-21, 77-21, 78-21, 79-21, 80-21, 81-21, 82-21, 83-21, 84-21, 85-21, 86-21, 87-21, 88-21, 89-21, 90-21, 91-21, 92-21, 93-21, 94-21, 95-21, 96-21, 97-21, 98-21, 99-21, 100-21, 101-21, 102-21, 103-21, 104-21, 105-21, 106-21, 107-21, 108-21, 109-21, 110-21, 111-21, 112-21, 113-21, 114-21, 115-21, 116-21, 117-21, 118-21, 119-21, 120-21, 121-21, 122-21, 123-21, 124-21, 125-21, 126-21, 127-21, 128-21, 129-21, 130-21, 131-21, 132-21, 133-21, 134-21, 135-21, 136-21, 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